

## **UNIDO Director-General urges continued support for developing countries on World Environment Day**

VIENNA, 4 June 2009 - UNIDO Director-General, Kandeh K. Yumkella, said today that the financial and economic turmoil could lead to a new green industrial revolution, but cautioned that developing countries must not lose out.

“We must make sure that the crisis is used to launch a new green industrial revolution. But it has to be a truly global one. Developing countries and poor communities, already the most afflicted by climate change, cannot afford to lose out,” said Yumkella.

“They will need continued support to make their industries cleaner, to enhance their technological know-how, and to build policy toward new green industries and renewable forms of energy for productive purposes.”

The UNIDO Director-General made his comments to mark the World Environment Day, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972, and observed on 5 June. This year’s theme is “your planet needs you! UNite to combat climate change”.

“I’m certain - a new industrial revolution is just around the corner, and this time it will be green. Industry, long regarded as the main source of emissions that cause climate change, should be in the driving seat moving the world towards a sustainable future. Cleaner production and renewable energy - as well as resource- and energy-efficient technologies - are set to change forever the relationship we have with our global commons,” added Yumkella.

He said that action was needed “at the individual level to reduce, reuse and recycle; at the corporate level to invest in energy efficient and low-carbon production; and at the governmental level to “Seal the Deal” at the UN summit on climate change in Copenhagen in December”.

UNIDO will focus on these issues in a range of major international conferences, including one on Energy in Vienna from 22 to 24 June, and on Green Industry in Asia to be held in Manila from 9 to 11 September.