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# UNIDO General Conference

Eighteenth session

Agenda item 1

## **General debate**

Abu Dhabi, 5 Novembre 2019

Déclaration de la Suisse

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Mr. President, Mr. Director General, Excellences, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first thank Director-General Li Yong and the Secretariat for their hard work and their commitment to UNIDO and its goals.

This General Conference provides an excellent opportunity to remind us of the core mission of UNIDO, which is to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in its Member States. The relevance of ISID is widely recognized, not at least by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related Sustainable Development Goals. UNIDO's role in the context of the 2030 SDGs is very obvious when it comes to Goal number 9 on inclusive and sustainable industrialization, but there are other industry-related targets in the agenda, particularly under Goals number 6, 7, 8 and 12, where UNIDO can also make a meaningful contribution.

With the help of two concrete implementation areas I would now like to take the chance and elaborate in more detail how UNIDO can contribute to sustainable development and really make a difference:

- 1) UNIDO with its core competence in Green Industry and Circular Economy is and should be even more a driver of sustainable patterns of production and organization. Resource efficient and cleaner production methods are important for a more sustainable and climate friendly way of production, but their broad deployment and effective use has yet to happen. The tons and kilotons of resources saved and emissions avoided at enterprise level, still do not match the need to avoid these in terms of mega- and giga-tons. In order to accelerate a quicker and more widespread uptake of resource efficient and cleaner production methods and techniques, Switzerland together with UNIDO initiated the Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme (GEIPP). The development objective of the Programme is to demonstrate the viability and benefits of greening industrial parks by improving resource productivity and economic, environmental and social performances of businesses and thereby contributing to inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the participating countries.
  
- 2) The poverty reduction potential of trade is broadly accepted and uncontested. But in order to be able to integrate in the world market and to reap the poverty alleviating promises of the international trade systems, developing countries need to comply with a number of non-tariff measures in the forms of technical regulations, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, standards, market requirements, and conformity assessment procedures, amongst others to ensure consumer safety. Many developing countries, however, suffer from a weak Quality Infrastructure System due to the lack of expertise and awareness of the role of quality infrastructure and services for international trade. To strengthen the Quality Infrastructure System aiming to support sustainable integration into global markets, SECO and UNIDO have been cooperating on providing technical assistance for over 15 years. Currently the two partners are implementing the Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP).

It is important to note that the success of such contributions, however, will depend to a large degree on UNIDO's ability to liaise and coordinate with other stakeholders, while remaining true to its mandate and aware of its core competences. It will further depend on the successful implementation of the reform of the UN Development System. Switzerland is committed and supports the reform process of the UN resident coordinator system, which necessitates efficiency and effectiveness gains as well as a pragmatic understanding how reforms should be implemented.

Therefore, let us, in a positive spirit, tackle all relevant issues and seize the opportunity to make UNIDO more effective, efficient, and ready for the future. As far as my delegation is concerned, I can assure you of our will to provide UNIDO with sufficient resources and clear guidance for the future. Switzerland remains fully committed to UNIDO.

I thank you, Mr. President.