

18th session of the UNIDO General Conference, 3-7 November 2019, Abu Dhabi

General Statement by the delegation of

SWEDEN

(Check against delivery)

Sweden aligns itself with the statement by the EU and takes this opportunity to congratulate the host country on the excellent arrangements of the General Conference.

Sweden is proud to have been **a member of UNIDO since the founding of the organization**. We are pleased to see that at past 50 years of age, UNIDO is performing well, and delivering significant value to industrial development efforts around the world in a forward-looking manner.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is a priority for Sweden. The Agenda derives its strength from being universal. While the primary responsibility for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda lies with national governments, we need a global partnership and strong multilateral institutions to support the efforts of governments and other actors to implement the Agenda.

UNIDO has an important role in the implementation of the sustainable development goals, not least goal 9. We appreciate the way that the Director-General has firmly positioned UNIDO in the SDG framework. We welcome further discussion between UNIDO and its Member States on how the organization can contribute further to the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

We also need effective and inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships, at all levels, across borders. **In this regard, reforms of the UN Development System are necessary.** Sweden strongly supports the UN Secretary-General's ambitious reform agenda. To strengthen the knowledge and expertise, and to build on the know-how of the entire UN Development System, we believe involvement of all actors within the UN family, including the Specialized Agencies, is vital.

Over the last few years, Sweden has been one of the top donors to UNIDO, with a strong focus on projects in Technical and Vocational Education and Training as well as in standardization. These projects are highly appreciated, by recipients as well as by industrial partners, including some of Sweden's biggest international corporations. **This buy-in from the private sector is a good example of what we mean by multi-stakeholder partnerships. It furthermore represents a very special quality of UNIDO – its ability and willingness to partner with the private sector to move industrial development forward.**

Sweden follows with great interest the discussions at the General Conference and at the IDB regarding **gender equality**. In 2015, UNIDO adopted its first gender strategy, aiming at strengthening gender equality both in the services that UNIDO delivers, and within the organization itself. We are pleased to have seen the launch of its follow-up, here at the General Conference. The UN Secretary-General's system-wide strategy on gender parity is also a key

driver in this context, setting the target to reach parity across all levels by 2026. **Sweden strongly supports this work.** This must be paralleled by a sincere effort to mainstream gender perspectives throughout all aspects of UN Development System work, normative as well as operational. **Unless we take more concerted action to empower women economically and politically, we will not reach the SDGs.** We look forward to seeing UNIDO further strengthen its work in this field.

When discussing industrial development issues, Sweden believes it is a fundamental priority to address **the issue of the climate crisis.** It is our common responsibility to address this crisis by immediate action. Industrial development has a key role to play.

While industry is essential for our modern society, **heavy industry accounts for a large portion of global emissions. Transitioning these sectors from emission-intensive patterns to sustainable approaches will be key in the fight against climate change.** Fossil-free industry will combine climate action with growing economies, long-term competitiveness and new jobs.

At this year's UN Climate Action Summit, Sweden together with India responded to the Secretary-General's request to co-lead the Industry Transition track. It was announced at the Summit that **Sweden and India are launching the Leadership Group for Industry Transition,** with the support of the World Economic Forum, and a strong group of member countries as well as industry representatives. This group will support and accelerate the transition of heavy industry. It will assist sectors and countries in developing roadmaps for going fossil-free and facilitate the necessary innovation and technology transfer.

This Leadership Group has the potential to deliver a real impact, and Sweden warmly invites those countries that haven't already joined, to do so.

Finally,

On the funding of UNIDO, Sweden shares the concern expressed by many, and not least in light of the difficult discussions on the budget this year. Firstly, the organization needs a **tenable long-term balance between core funding and voluntary contributions.** Secondly, we encourage UNIDO to continue exploring ways of engaging with member states that have left the organization.

In closing, we **underline the importance of continuous evaluation of the organization's performance** as a key tool to ensure continuous learning, efficiency, and accountability.

Thank you for your attention.