



European Union

EU Statement on

Agenda item 7: UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

**49th session of the Industrial Development Board
United Nations Industrial Development Organization**

Vienna, 12-15 July 2021

Madam President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey§, the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Norway+, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia.

The EU and its Member States appreciate UNIDO's activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as outlined in the Director General's report IDB.49/12 and welcome his efforts to engage with UNIDO Member States, the private sector and other stakeholders to support affected Member States towards an inclusive and environmentally sustainable recovery in accordance with IDB/48/Dec.4.

The EU and its Member States are fully engaged with the UN's call to 'build back better' and consider the whole UN system, including UNIDO, a key player in recovering from the COVID-19 crisis. The EU will pursue a Global Recovery Initiative, linking investment and debt relief to the Sustainable Development Goals to secure a truly transformative, post-COVID-19 path. The EU and its Member States work jointly, as *Team EUROPE*, together with finance institutions, to address the recovery needs of our partner countries. We have mobilised more than 40 billion EUR as of January 2021 to address and mitigate the health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic.

Furthermore, the EU is the largest exporter of COVID-19 vaccines to the world and will continue its efforts to increase global vaccine production capacities in order to meet global needs. The EU and its Member States are committed to accelerating vaccine sharing for countries in need, with the aim of donating at least 100 million doses by the end of the year. We are also committed to help developing local manufacturing capacity in line with the Rome Declaration of the Global Health Summit.

§ Candidate Country

* Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Norway is a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

Madam President,

We welcome UNIDO's activities within the framework "Responding to the crisis: building a better future", oriented towards providing three integrated packages to support Member States with comprehensive socio-economic recovery approaches: *Prepare and contain*; *Respond and adapt*, which takes into account the specific needs of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs); and *Recover and transform*, which supports recovery and transformation towards inclusive, resilient and environmentally sustainable economies.

We further welcome the specific groups of activities provided by UNIDO in response to the COVID-19 crisis as reported to this IDB, and we encourage the Secretariat to continue supporting Member States within the mandate of UNIDO and in line with its core functions of technical cooperation, policy analysis and advice, norms and standards, and convening and partnerships.

The EU and its Member States further encourage UNIDO to step up its efforts in responding to the crisis, both as part of the UN Country Teams (UNCT) and through the implementation of its programmes and projects.

We look forward to an update on the implementation of the "Responding to the crisis: building a better future" framework later this year, which will enable us to define better UNIDO's contribution for the period after the current pandemic has subsided, and we stand ready to support UNIDO's efforts in this regard.

With these comments, we take note of Document IDB.49/12-PBC.37/12.

Thank you Madam President.