

 **Permanent
Mission
of Austria**

to the United
Nations in Vienna

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49th Industrial Development Board
12-15 July 2021

Statement by Austria
Ambassador Gabriela SELNER

Agenda item 3: Annual report of the Director General for 2020

Madam President, Ambassador Dominika Krois, we congratulate you and the other newly elected members of the bureau and would like to thank the last bureau for its valuable work, in particular Ambassador Darmansja Djumala of Indonesia.

Please allow me also to warmly congratulate Federal Minister Dr. Gerd Müller on his election as the next UNIDO Director General and wish Dr. Müller a lot of success in leading this important organisation. Austria as the host country and as member of UNIDO will continue to support the Director General and UNIDO in fulfilling its important mandate.

We thank the two other candidates Dr. Arkebe Oqubay from Ethiopia and Mr. Cazadilla Sarmiento for their engagement and wish them well.

We fully align ourselves with the EU statement and would like to add additional comments in our national capacity.

We thank Director General LI Yong for his leadership in the uncertain times in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic which affected us all. Therefore, we note with appreciation UNIDO's answer to the COVID-19 crisis. In addition to the implementation of ongoing and planned programmes, UNIDO has initiated specific activities in response to COVID-19 as a matter of urgency already in early 2020 and projects are still ongoing.

Moreover, we welcome the annual report of the Director General. We note with appreciation that the number of countries in which UNIDO implemented projects increased compared to the previous year. Furthermore, we welcome that 77 million tons of CO₂-equivalent and over 90,000 tons of pollutants reduced with UNIDO contribution in 2020. This is a significant increase compared to 2019 and benefits us all.

However, the report also shows that the balance of men and women employed at UNIDO has even decreased. In our view, gender equality, is an important component of industrial development and should be reflected in the competent Organisation. Hence, we look forward to the further implementation of the UNIDO Strategy for Gender Equality and



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Empowerment of Women and the UNIDO Gender Parity Action Plan specifically at senior level.

As highlighted in the annual report, UNIDO focusses on many Sustainable Development Goals and Austria is strongly supporting the organization to reach them. For example, last week Austria, UNIDO and other stakeholders organized the Vienna Energy Forum, in which experts had the possibility to exchange views concerning, inter alia, SDG 7 and 13.

Furthermore, we welcome that more than 300 participants took part in the global consultations on circular economy to which we attach great importance and are honoured to chair together with Costa Rica. In this context, Austria and Costa Rica have proposed a draft decision under Agenda Item 11 (a).

Thank you.