

UNIDO – 49th Industrial Development Board
Statement by H.E. Mr. Gerhard Küntzle, Permanent Representative,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Federal Republic of Germany
12 – 15 July 2021

Agenda Item 6 – Medium-Term Programme Framework

Madam Chair,

The Medium-term Programme Framework is the major guideline for UNIDO in the coming four years. “The next four years” - this means: two budget cycles, and it will extend as well to times when the current pandemic will hopefully have been overcome, at least partly. It is very useful that UNIDO is reminding us of the long-term challenges in industrial development, beyond COVID, and looking toward a green recovery.

In our opinion, the MTPF is a good basis which we can generally support.

The motto of the MTPF, “Integration and scale-up to build back better”, maintains the notion of ISID (Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development) as laid down in the declarations of Lima and Abu Dhabi. Within this framework, there is a new focus on digitalization as one of the major features of the 21st century economy.

Digitalization has to contend with gaps and divides, which are:

- the digital divide between segments of labour markets,
- the digital divide between countries,
- between industrialized and developing countries,
- the gender gap.

But digitalization also offers opportunities as we have increasingly seen during recent years.

We also note that UNIDO aims to reprioritize its normative role (e.g. in regulatory services), besides its other roles – technical cooperation, political advice, convening role. We agree that the normative role is crucial for economic transparency and for stabilizing foreign trade. We are living in times where, very often, it is not so much tariffs and quotas that hinder developing countries' exports as it is product quality, product norms and standards. We would recommend that UNIDO works in contact with other multilateral organizations such as UNCTAD, the WTO and the International Trade Center.

Moreover, we've taken note of UNIDO's intention to tighten its partnerships with the private sector, of the Special Initiative on COVID-19 recovery and of the announcement to channel UNIDO's activities more into larger, regional programmes directed at groups of countries. This is in line with the MTPF's motto "integration and scale-up to build back better". We very much support UNIDO's efforts to design regional solutions for different groups of countries.

All in all, the MTPF reflects important priorities of German Development Cooperation. There are new projects in the pipeline or already started:

- for job creation and vocational training in Senegal and Ethiopia (8m euros), with an envisaged extension for more African countries, then:
- the new initiative on cooperation on the production and use of green hydrogen, and
- finally the 1m-euro contribution to the joint UNIDO-WHO project on supplying African countries with protective equipment against COVID-19.

Thank you.