



## **Statement of the Republic of Malta**

for the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Industrial Development Board

12-15 July 2021

Madam President

Further to the statement delivered by the European Union, I would like to make the following comments in my national capacity.

At the outset, let me express my sincere appreciation in seeing you presiding over this important Session of the IDB in which we are to decide over the future leadership of this Organization. Let me also thank the Secretariat for the valuable work done in preparation of this session including the voting process of the new DG. We commend you all for facilitating a smooth process.

Allow me also to express my gratitude to Director General LI Yong for his tireless efforts during the last 8 years in guiding UNIDO towards the attainment of the 2030 Agenda objectives and for his very active engagement with international key players towards a resilient recovery from the negative impact of the pandemic. We can only overcome this huge downturn together and are proud that UNIDO has taken a leading role for building back better and stronger.

Malta firmly believes that the UN Development System (UNDS) is an important tool for more efficient implementation of the SDGs and should be utilized by UNIDO as a way of maximizing synergies with other partners in the areas of our work. With the recommendation of the biannual budget 2022/23 as agreed during the last PBC and with all the improvements made to the Organization in the last years, we are convinced that the Organization is in a better shape to carry out its mandate towards



the international community within the multilateral framework in its sphere and expertise.

Madam President,

For Malta, gender equality is considered an essential aspect of our sustainable industrial development which has proved its mettle as driver of our economic growth. In the last year we focused more on training programs to increase employability of women in better jobs and this is evident in the number of young women in tertiary education, exceeding 50% of the student population. With this, Malta is determined to continue increasing the participation of women and enhance their valuable contribution to the economy through highly qualified jobs. Malta would therefore welcome and indeed encourage all efforts to include gender equality as one of UNIDO's strategic priorities.

In this regard Malta continues to be an advocate for gender balance in UNIDO's senior management and calls on UNIDO to use every opportunity to promote gender equality in the Organization.

Madam President,

We reiterate our commitment to UNIDO's technical cooperation projects and programs that match our partners' priorities in areas where UNIDO has established expertise and can provide added value. We commend UNIDO's role in supporting environmentally sustainable industries and we welcome the initiative of the secretariat on the circular economy in accordance with resolution 18/7 proposed by the EU. We therefore look forward to further mobilize the private sector to create decent work and deliver inclusive and sustainable development. We encourage



UNIDO to focus clearly on the creation of jobs and to scale up technical cooperation in Least Developed Countries and in countries facing instability.

This year, Malta took a more active part in the Vienna Energy Forum held earlier this month on 6/7 July, because we firmly believe in the key role of clean and sustainable energy for sustainable development. We are convinced that in this vital area of energy for the future, developing countries could manage to bridge the existing gap to more advanced countries.

In her statement introducing the spotlight on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the unique set of challenges they face in the context of climate change, their isolation and exposure to severe climate events, Minister Miriam Dalli in charge of the Ministry for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development, emphasized that energy security and climate resilience are even more crucial for sustainable economic development. Full engagement in the “Blue Economy” serves as a catalyst to promote development which respects and safeguards both present and future generations. A blue economy ensures sustainability of our oceans and seas, while promoting improved livelihoods and social inclusion and securing economic growth.

Madam President,

Malta sees the African Continental Trade Agreement (AfCTA) as a milestone shifting the focus from aid towards improving and strengthening mutual trade. As our economies readjust to the challenges of COVID-19, it is important for UNIDO to observe and support these developments on our neighbouring continent to ensure that African growth translates into better livelihoods for its people through improved



quality jobs, better governance and more sustainable economies that will help us all plan for the new economies of the future.

Finally, we would like to express our support for the good number of resolutions and decisions presented to this IDB that are important for the Organization to carry on with its various mandates and to address the challenges posed, including by the present pandemic.

Thank you, Madam President