

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 11 – UNIDO activities in the environment and energy

Excellencies, Director-General, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have taken note of UNIDO's document on this topic and of the member States' comments. I would like to add a few remarks on behalf of Germany. Germany participates in UNIDO's ongoing consultation process on the circular economy.

German development cooperation supports more than 20 countries worldwide in their endeavour to unfold the circular economy and reduce the pollution from waste. For many cities in emerging and developing economies one of the biggest challenges is the financing of waste management systems. Supporting the set-up of Extended Producer Responsibility schemes in our partner countries is, hence, one key focus in the German development cooperation. To adapt towards more circularity worldwide, it also needs international exchange of experiences, multi-stakeholder cooperation, and financial support. Under the patronage of the German Development Minister Gerd Müller the PREVENT Waste Alliance was therefore established in 2019, where currently about 220 member institutions from private sector, academia, civil society and public sector work towards preventing waste and developing the circular economy worldwide.

The German Government aims to take up the transition towards more sustainable production and circularity even more strategically. We intend to intensify the work with our partner countries towards a circular economy for achieving their climate targets and towards raising

ambitions under their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). For that, we are looking at coordinating our activities more closely with the NDC Partnership, the EU, UNIDO and other interested partners.

Germany supports the endeavour to strengthen circularity principles as well as measures towards a global circular economy in UNIDO's work. In this regard, we look forward to the recommendations presented by the Co-Chairs and would welcome a commitment by the board for the Circular Economy.

Before I conclude, I'd like to mention one more important topic in this context: Green hydrogen. Since climate change is an issue which exceeds the national sphere of action, we are pleased that UNIDO initiated the Global H2 Partnership together with the German Government and several other donors. The establishment of this global partnership and the creation of a global hydrogen programme are crucial for the promotion, development, and acceptance of green hydrogen around the world, especially in developing and emerging countries. We need this concerted effort in order to accelerate the decarbonization of industries globally. Now it is time to join forces. We shouldn't lose any more momentum in the fight against climate change.

Thank you.