



European Union

EU Statement on

Agenda item 18: Recommendation of a candidate for the post of Director General

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

Vienna, 12 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: the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia.

Allow me to welcome you as President of this 49th Session of the Industrial Development Board, which is tasked with the responsibility to recommend a candidate for the post of UNIDO Director General. We are confident that under your able leadership, a fair, transparent and inclusive election process will be ensured.

We would like to thank the outgoing President, Ambassador Djumala of Indonesia, for his commendable efforts to pave the way for a smooth election and the UNIDO Secretariat for their professional and impartial work in preparing this important session.

Today's election marks the end of an inspiring campaign of three outstanding candidates. The European Union and its Member States are united in their support for Dr. Gerd Müller, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, to become the next Director General of UNIDO. We are convinced that his vast governmental experience in the field of international development cooperation, his commitment to the UN and rules-based multilateralism, along with his personal leadership qualities, make him best suited to assume the responsibilities of this position at the service of the Organization and all of its Member States – developing countries, emerging markets and industrialized countries alike.

At a time of growing challenges, ranging from poverty and post pandemic recovery, to the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, Dr. Gerd Müller has a proven capacity and commitment to mobilize further international support for UNIDO and its activities leaving no one behind. He has the required competence and implementation capacity to make UNIDO fit to harness inclusive and sustainable industrial development, in line with the often very different needs of every Member State, and to further enhance its standing within the UN system.

If elected, Dr. Müller will be the first ever Director General of UNIDO from the Group of the Western European and Other States (WEOG). We look forward to this historic opportunity and a swift and smooth election.

Thank you for your attention.

* 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.