



European Union

EU Statement on

**Agenda item 18: Recommendation of a candidate for the post of Director General
(Congratulatory Statement)**

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

Vienna, 12-15 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*, Norway+, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia.

I would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Dr. Gerd Müller on his election as the next UNIDO Director General and to welcome him as the first ever DG from the Group of Western European and Other States (WEOG), supported by the European Union and its Member States. We look forward to his appointment at the 19th General Conference and wish him every success in his new position.

Dr. Gerd Müller takes up this post at an important time for the Organisation and for the global development agenda in this Decade of Action. His leadership will be crucial for supporting UNIDO's Member States in the post COVID-19 recovery and for building back better, greener and smarter, leaving no one behind. We reaffirm our support to UNIDO and we look forward to deepening our co-operation under the leadership of Dr. Gerd Müller who should now act as a unifying force for the whole membership and attract potential new members.

Today's election marks the end of an active campaign by each of the three candidates. The contributions made by Dr. Arkebe Oqubay and Dr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento provided inspiring ideas for the future of UNIDO. We would like to thank them and we look forward to their continuous engagement with the Organisation for the benefit of its members.

Let me also thank the incumbent Director General Li Yong for his leadership and dedication in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development at the helm of UNIDO.

Finally, we thank the President of the IDB, Ambassador Dominika Krois of Poland and her team, for efficiently steering IDB Members throughout the election process and commend the UNIDO Secretariat for its professional and impartial work in preparing this session.

Thank you Madam President.

* 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.

+ Norway is a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.