

Finland's statement at UNIDO GC19

Agenda item 8

Mister Chair,

Thank you for this opportunity to take the floor. Let me first congratulate you for your selection as the Chair of the nineteenth General Conference. I also wish to congratulate the Vice-Chairs as well as the Rapporteur.

Finland is also grateful to the Secretariat for organizing again this very important policy-making organ meeting in difficult circumstances.

Distinguished delegates,

Finland aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. Let me share a few comments also in our national capacity.

Firstly, I want to reiterate Finland's congratulations to you, Mr. Müller, for your appointment as the Director General of UNIDO. Finland considers UNIDO as a key partner in trade and development. Our appreciation for the agency is clearly demonstrated in the form of the financial support, political cooperation and active role in the governing bodies.

Secondly, I also congratulate Director General Li Yong for his work for the organization and inclusive and sustainable industrial development. I want to particularly mention DG Li's work for the empowerment of women and gender equality, as well as for the climate, low-carbon development and circular economy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Finland welcomes the Annual Report of the Director General. Finland appreciates the development results and impacts that UNIDO achieves in developing countries. Every job that is sustained, and every small enterprise

that has survived amidst the covid pandemic, is a valuable achievement. The pandemic is not only a health crisis, it is predominantly an economic crisis, especially for the poor and most vulnerable people. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development is now more crucial than ever before.

We need to rebuild the global community from those many crises. We must rebuild with dignity, respecting diversity, equality and human rights. It was clearly underlined also by our Minister in his video address to the General Conference on Monday morning. It goes without saying that Finland follows closely the implementation of UNIDO's Strategy for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women as well as Gender Parity Action Plan. Let me also remind the Management to guarantee adequate resources for the Gender Office, including those from the Regular Budget.

In addition, Finland pays an increasingly keen attention to the rights of people with disabilities. Reiterating from our Minister's address, I encourage UNIDO to take disability inclusion seriously in its relevant projects.

To conclude, Mister Chair,

The global community made progress in COP26 in Glasgow to steer the future development to a sustainable path and decelerate the warming of the planet. According to various analyses, we still have work to do to limit the average temperature increase below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Finland strengthens zero-carbon development and circular economy both nationally and internationally. I am glad that UNIDO and Finland have joined forces in promoting circular economy value chains and aim to ignite transformative changes in the business world.

Thank you very much.