

UNIDO – 19th General Conference

Statement by H.E. Mr Götz Schmidt-Bremme,

Permanent Representative,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

of the Federal Republic of Germany

Vienna, 29 November – 3 December 2021

General debate

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

As this is the first time Germany takes the floor, I'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a fruitful conference and that its deliberations will be successful, in the constructive "Vienna" spirit.

I would like to focus on agenda item 21 – response to climate change and the circular economy.

Germany fully supports the statement of the European Union. Germany is supportive of the draft resolutions we are all working on, and we have taken an active part in the negotiations on these resolutions.

We thank UNIDO for its draft strategic framework for climate action, which is an important step in the right direction. The industrial sector is directly responsible for more than one third of global energy-related

carbon dioxide emissions. Industry stakeholders therefore play a vital role for limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5°C. In this regard, we note with delight UNIDO's aim to align its activities with the Paris Agreement and to position industry as a leading force in the transition to net-zero emissions economies.

Germany welcomes UNIDO's draft strategic framework to support the systemic transformation of the industrial sector by mainstreaming climate action across its operations. This transformation opens up opportunities for industry to act as a driver of innovation. It also poses challenges, e.g. for hard-to-mitigate sectors and for workers and communities depending on jobs in carbon-intensive sectors. Within its mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), UNIDO can significantly contribute to ensuring a just transition.

UNIDO is presenting its draft strategic framework at a time of important climate diplomacy developments. The results of the COP26 conference in Glasgow are a signal of momentum towards societal decarbonization. COP26 has spurred numerous initiatives to increase climate ambition in various industrial sectors, including energy, aviation, and transport. Their implementation will depend on contributions from countries and businesses, but also international organizations such as UNIDO. I am convinced that altogether, that is through a cooperation between the public and private sectors facilitated by international organizations, such a contribution can be particularly strong and valuable.

UNIDO can contribute to the transition from coal to clean energy by providing a platform for the exchange of experiences and lessons learned between its member states, taking into account the specific con-

texts of the respective countries and the differences between developed and developing countries. Drawing on the industrial sector as an engine for innovation, UNIDO's members can contribute to scaling up the deployment of clean power generation and energy efficiency measures as well as technologies and policies to push the transition forward. This is especially relevant in the context of UNIDO's role as co-host of the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

UNIDO's draft strategic framework marks an important starting point to enhance the organization's climate ambition. Based on this, we encourage UNIDO to develop a concrete timeline for the implementation of the strategic framework and its alignment with the pledges of COP26. In order to ensure its effectiveness and Paris alignment and to foster transparency, UNIDO needs to develop indicators to assess its success. We recognize UNIDO's focus on climate change and look forward to the continuing debate on UNIDO's efforts to implement the Paris Agreement.

We have taken note of the report of the Director General on this topic and the draft resolution, and also of the member states' comments.

Germany participated in UNIDO's consultation process on the circular economy. The findings match the experience gained through German development cooperation in this field. The barriers that have been identified to a transition to a circular economy in developing countries include, among others:

- inadequate incentives for the private sector,
- the absence of enabling environments for investment, and
- a lack of financing for sustainable waste management systems.

This is why extending producer responsibility in member countries is key. Extended producer responsibility includes incentives to prevent waste right from the beginning of the production cycle. What is also needed is international exchange of experiences, multi-stakeholder cooperation, and financial support. Under the patronage of the outgoing German Development Minister Gerd Müller, the PREVENT Waste Alliance was established in 2019 to facilitate relevant efforts. In the Alliance, about 250 member institutions are currently working towards preventing waste and increasing circularity along global value chains.

We invite UNIDO to make use of the vast expertise of the PREVENT Waste Alliance for their ongoing and future activities.

Before I conclude, I would like to take a look ahead, to the coming year. I am able to announce that Germany is willing to renew the bilateral Strategic Dialogue between the German government and UNIDO. The first round was in 2019 and it led to our common Roadmap. Next year will be a good time to take a fresh look at the Roadmap and to focus on intensifying its implementation.

Thank you.