

UNIDO – 19th General Conference

Tribute to outgoing Director General Mr Li Yong

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

Permanent Representative,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

of the Federal Republic of Germany

Vienna, 3 December 2021

Honorable Director General,

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Germany fully supports what the Permanent Representative of the European Union has said.

We have enjoyed working with you during the last eight years. You have led UNIDO through some challenging tasks, and the last two years have been very difficult, as they have been marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences.

Right from the beginning of your term, you showed guidance, leadership and perseverance in the adoption of the 2013 Lima Declaration. The Lima Declaration made "inclusive and sustainable industrial development" (ISID) UNIDO's main focus.

It was new then, but it proved to be robust, and was taken up again later by the Abu Dhabi Declaration.

Further milestones under your responsibility were, to name just a few, the Programme for Country Partnership, the risk management strategy, the Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and the opening of UNIDO's ITPO Office in Bonn.

You have strengthened UNIDO's organizational flexibility and its financial stability. We know that you have personally worked for optimal financial discipline – and you have been successful.

Excellency, you have always been a competent and approachable leader. UNIDO's international reputation has improved during your term. The next Director General of UNIDO, Dr Gerd Müller from Germany, will be able to build on your achievements.

Thank you for all your work and for being a good partner. And I wish you only the very best for your future endeavours.