

Statement by Norway to the 19th session of the UNIDO General Conference

General debate

Norway aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. I would like to make the following remarks in a national capacity.

Norway is a firm supporter of the UN system and a rules-based multilateral order. The world needs strong multilateral institutions and cooperation to tackle global challenges.

The UN needs to be strengthened so that we are better equipped to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

Both the pandemic and the climate crisis are global challenges. We must find global solutions and improve global cooperation.

Prior to the pandemic, we had made some progress on the sustainable development agenda.

The pandemic has caused setbacks. Climate change remains a huge challenge.

We must therefore intensify our efforts to overcome the pandemic and our efforts against climate change.

Few are better positioned to create the green jobs and industries needed for reaching our development and climate ambitions than UNIDO. Thus, we support the initiative by the European delegation to present a resolution that asks for the development of an UNIDO strategy in response to climate change.

Distinguished delegates,

Norway and Mexico have together tabled a resolution on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Norway has for the previous three General Conferences submitted a resolution on this topic. This year we are grateful for the successful partnership with Mexico. We thank all delegations for the constructive engagement and cooperation during the informals.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, it is crucial to systematically mainstream a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We appreciate the progress UNIDO has made in this regard, by increasing the access of all women to productive resources; by creating enabling conditions for women's entrepreneurship and by job creation, education and vocational training.

As we recover from the pandemic, gender-responsive recovery measures are needed in industry, involving women in the design and implementation process, to ensure that inequalities are overcome.

Distinguished delegates,

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Norad, is supporting UNIDO's *Global Market Access Program* with up to NOK 110 million over a five-year period. This is a global program aiming at strengthening *national* quality infrastructure and compliance capacities. It will facilitate and improve market access for selected value chains in developing countries.

Regional and multilateral trade agreements that ensure fundamental standards as well as address climate and environmental concerns are a priority in Norwegian development and trade policy. In this respect, we consider GMAP a motor that supports developing countries engaging in safe trade by building self-sustaining value chains and thus promoting economic growth.

Norway would also like to recognize and commend UNIDO for its openness to exploring and engaging in complementarity with other initiatives. One such example is the GMAP-country project in Colombia, where the project has engaged in the shrimp and tilapia value chains. It also works closely with Norad's *Fish for Development* programme, which is responsible for coordinating all development projects supported by Norway in the field of fisheries and aquaculture. In this way, UNIDO is ensuring that best practices and knowledge is shared between multiple stakeholders. We hope this approach can be translated to similar GMAP country projects and across donors and partners.

We look forward to cooperating closely with UNIDO and the new Director General on UNIDO's important contributions to green and inclusive sustainable industrial development.

Thank you.