

**Statement of the Republic of Poland**  
on the occasion of the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of UNIDO  
Vienna, 29 November – 3 December 2019  
presented by Mr. Henryk Czubek, Counsellor  
at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations Office and  
the International Organizations in Vienna

**Mr President,**  
**Mr Director General,**  
**Excellences, Distinguished guests,**

Poland associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.  
I wish to highlight a few points of particular importance to my country.

**Mr President,**

Let me congratulate you on your election as the President of the 19th session of the General Conference, and wish you all success towards which we will contribute.

**Director General Li Yong,**

I would like to thank you for your personal engagement, and the professional and engaged stewardship of UNIDO during the last 8 years.

**Director General Gerd Mueller,**

our best wishes! We have full trust that you will guide us through the challenging time with strong and creative leadership!

**Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

I am pleased to express our satisfaction that the budget of the organisation for the next biennium 2022-2023 was prepared with the consent of all member states and great support of UNIDO Secretariat and awaits safely the approval by the GC. It is important since it secures the stable functioning of the organisation in next two years. It is results based and underpins the medium-term programme framework (**MTPF**) 2022–2025, which sets out the **UNIDO** strategic direction over the next four years.

**Mr President,**

A few remarks on the programmatic issues highlighted in the resolutions under consideration.

Poland strives to implement the goals mentioned in the resolution on “Gender equality and the empowerment of women”. According to the freshly published data the average wage gap in Poland between men and women is roughly 8.5 per cent and is one of the lowest among the European Union countries.

We also make efforts to enhance women’s potential in contributing to economic growth. The government policies aim at the creation of suitable framework conditions, allowing women to successfully advance their professional careers. We strengthened the policy framework for supporting business by making changes in education, employment and social policies to raise awareness among young women and men, parents, teachers and employers about academic performances and educational choices for employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, career progression and earnings. The measures have already been taken to improve the position of women on the labour market by channelling support towards women’s leadership and management.

The resolutions on “Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and climate action through circular economy” and “Development of UNIDO strategy in response to climate change” focused on transformation towards climate neutrality is a priority for the Polish government. Our goal is to secure global zero net by mid-century and keep the Paris Agreement temperature goal within reach, notably via ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets that will pave the way to climate neutrality by 2050. We need a climate-friendly transition in a just and socially balanced manner, reflecting national circumstances. Poland has already initiated the implementation of its just transition strategy “Poland’s energy policy until 2040”, which presents a comprehensive vision of the reconstruction and low-emission energy transformation, in a way that puts our country on the path of achieving climate neutrality as well as a broader modernization of the national economy. The energy transition will be based on 3 pillars: I. just transition, II. zero-emission energy system, III. good air quality. Through the strategy Poland supports

actions related to mobilizing investments in sustainable technologies (nuclear, solar, on-shore and off-shore wind, hydrogen) and climate-friendly solutions in renewable energy, energy efficiency and zero-emission transport. We estimate that the investment needs for the implementation of the transition goals in the entire fuel and energy sector will amount to nearly EUR 200 billion until 2040. We are aware that it will not be possible to proceed with climate transition without social acceptance for it. Transformation should improve standards of living not lowering them. We know that awareness of climate change among young people is very high. It is now important to give young people a more defined role in tackling the effects of climate change. We need to empower young people and involve them in the climate decision-making process. We have a great example of such involvement in the form of the Youth Climate Council in Poland. Their representatives took an active part at the last Vienna Energy Forum which was organised in virtual format.

#### **Mr. President**

This year UNIDO celebrates its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of operation as a specialised UN institution responsible for guidance in shaping the industrial path of the countries who were eager to improve their economic position among the other nations of the world.

Poland is a dedicated member of UNIDO from the very beginning and wishes to reiterate its commitment to the goal of inclusive and sustainable industrial development and we are looking forward to continue an intensive and effective cooperation with the UNIDO.

**Thank you Mr President**