

Mr President, Dear Director General LI Yong,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Poland I would like to thank you for your tireless engagement in leading the organisation and exploring new possibilities for the successful implementation of its mandate.

The completion of 8 years of service for UNIDO as its DG must bring you a lot of satisfaction and self-esteem. It is your initiative and passionate advocacy that make UNIDO now serve as the guardian of the Sustainable Development Goal 9.

We value the efforts you undertook to bring UNIDO up to the challenges of the second decade of the Millennium and we shall remember new projects and programmes elaborated and implemented under your guidance.

Your readiness to listen to the needs and opinions expressed by member states, big and small, established donors and phasing out recipients, those advanced in their industrial development and those less successful in securing their economic position in the global world. This approach of inclusiveness, emphasis on not leaving anybody behind and paying attention to the principles of sustainability will mark the time of your years at UNIDO top.

I wish you a peaceful time among the lavish greens of mainland China and skyscrapers of Shanghai, but please make use of your knowledge and experience! I am convinced that your experience will still benefit the international community.

Thank you