



Statement by LI Yong, UNIDO Director General
on the appointment of Mr. Gerd Müller as UNIDO Director General
on 30 November 2021, Vienna International Centre,
at the 19th session of the UNIDO General Conference

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Mr. Müller,

I have the honour and distinct pleasure to congratulate you, Mr. Müller, on your election and appointment as the next Director General of UNIDO. Congratulations!

You are taking office during a pivotal time, as multilateralism is being reinvigorated, with the United Nations system at the centre.

It is also a crucial time for the international community to strengthen solidarity and solve the pressing challenges exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic. We need to accelerate effective solutions towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UNIDO mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) will increase in relevance as the value of industrialization becomes more tangible — in particular as we address poverty, the triple planetary crisis, and find ourselves in an era of rapid technological advancement through the fourth industrial revolution.

I heard, together with the participants here, your impressive and visionary statement and vision for the Organization, which I strongly support.

UNIDO, with you at its helm, will benefit from your long-standing experience in the sphere of economic cooperation and development, including the personal partnerships you established in developing and middle-income countries to foster agricultural and agri-business development, vocational training and job creation, private sector development and investment, as well as sustainability and climate protection.

I am very confident that your experience and leadership will serve as a valuable asset, as UNIDO continues to support Member States in the economic recovery from the ongoing pandemic, in poverty reduction, and in the green economy transition process.

Under your leadership, UNIDO will make a lasting and transformational change towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, leaving no one behind.

I wish you every success in your new function as the Director General of UNIDO.

Mr. Müller, viel Erfolg!