

**Statement on the occasion of the
UNIDO Industrial Development Board and
Special Session of the General Conference
Vienna, 25-27 November 2014**

Agenda item 3

Thank you, Mr. President,

Norway aligns itself with the statement made by the EU. In addition, we would also like to highlight some topics of importance both to the development agenda and to the future work of UNIDO.

As one of the major contributors to the UN in general and its development agenda Norway is committed to UNIDO's work. We have been one of the main donors to the organization and will continue to be so. It is important that the organization in the years to come delivers and proves to be a main contributor to fulfilling the new development goals to be adopted next year. We will work for a post-2015 framework that is realistic as well as ambitious.

The economic and social challenges ahead are enormous. New generations of youth will come into the labour market. We will have to grow the economies of the developing world to secure sustainable employment and at the same time take into account sustainable use of resources.

We need to enhance private sector and foreign direct investments in order to succeed. The promotion of entrepreneurship is a key priority for my government. There is no way of eradicating poverty without enhancing production and economic output. There is a clear correlation between private investments, a strong private sector and good governance, and later, inclusive, sustainable growth that creates job opportunities for the young

population. Inclusive growth is directly linked to the promotion of stable societies.

We recall that the world is not static. UNIDO has in the past contributed in fields as trade capacity building, standards implementation, development of the private sector, including institution building and development of value chains. It will and shall continue to do so. However, when we look ahead, UNIDO should give priority to innovative branches and those with high impact for fighting poverty, environmentally sound processes and product management in industries, energy efficiency and industry related renewable energy. The new industrial revolution is a digital one - this must be fully reflected in UNIDO's work.

We also encourage UNIDO to strengthen cooperation with other UN agencies and other stakeholders in the field of "access to knowledge" and "human capacity development". Among these stakeholders are not only industry and companies, what we call private sector, but also social sector, i.e. NGOs and also the scientific society.

We believe that UNIDO has an important role to play in assisting countries in inclusive economic and industrial development, decent jobs and a robust private sector. The fundament for this is good governance, rule of law, transparency, accountability and stability for business development.

For UNIDO's work, the medium –term programme should be a strategic management instrument. Such a framework needs to be flexible and operational. It must include clear targets on implementation and reporting. UNIDO needs to report on results. To promote transparency and impact, this medium term programme framework must be linked to the budget and to include cross cutting issues. In that way we can also incorporate all relevant post-2015 Goals.

We do recognize the financial challenges UNIDO is facing, and the additional challenges through changes in the membership of the organisation. In this situation, transparency is a key.

Transparency will ensure the necessary confidence of donors and development partners. As donors, we need to have the full funding picture, including how the funds are spent. Regular updates on funding, implementation and results are important, and we encourage a system that allows member states to access this information online.

We value the work done by the Office for Independent Evaluation. Evaluation of output and impact is a key. UNIDO is taking on an increasing number of projects in areas that are new for UNIDO. In this situation, evaluation is important to ensure a sustainable development of the organisation.

Research and experience clearly demonstrates that a high proportion of women in the labour market leads to greater economic growth. My own country is a case illustrating this. Women make an important contribution to society, and should have the opportunity to influence how resources are distributed. Inadequate legislation and social limitations often make it difficult for women to exploit the opportunities for production and trade at both local and national level. When women and men have equal economic rights, equal access to credit and education, and equal opportunities to participate in agriculture and the labour market in general, the economic gain are be considerable.

Norway appreciates the work done to develop the UNIDO's Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. We value UNIDO's activities to integrate a gender perspective into its programmes, policies and organizational practices, as well as efforts to achieve the goal of gender balance. Gender equality is a goal in its own right, it is also vital to the achievement of other development goals, such as poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

We would like to encourage further efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into all organisational policies, practices, programmes and technical cooperation projects. We also encourage UNIDO to fully incorporate gender equality results and gender sensitive indicators in the programme and budget and other strategic frameworks such as the medium –term programme framework for 2016-2019. This should be done in a manner that allows for reporting to the member states on the progress made.

How an organisation is perceived starts with the organizational chart. We encourage strengthening of UNIDO’s organizational architecture and capacity, with adequate resources and authority. UNIDO needs to advance towards gender balance within the Organization.

**Mr President,
Norway looks forward to working with Member States, other partners, the Director General and the secretariat to promote the noble goals of this organisation.**