



**European Union**  
**Statement on the occasion of the**  
**UNIDO Industrial Development Board**  
**Vienna, 23-25 June 2015**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey\*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\*, Albania\*, Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, Norway<sup>+</sup>, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

Mr. Chairman,

1. Let me welcome you as the Chair of this 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Industrial Development Board and assure you and the other members of the Bureau of the European Union's full cooperation.
2. The European Union would like to thank the Director General and the staff of UNIDO for the Annual Report and all related documents before the Board.
3. At the outset, the EU would like to reiterate its firm commitment to a well-functioning and efficiently managed Organisation. In this regard, we commend the Director General for carrying forward programme priorities from the current biennium into 2016 and 2017, and we further encourage the Organisation to continue its efforts to identify cost savings and efficiency gains.
4. The EU welcomes the initiatives of the Director General to develop partnerships with international finance institutions, the private sector and other contributors aiming at diversifying the funding sources for technical cooperation.
5. With regard to the Director General's Annual Report for the year 2014, we take note that work carried out by UNIDO in 2014 targets its integration as a leading partner in the post-2015 development agenda debate.
6. Conclusions of 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the PBC, which adopted the biennium budget, stressed a number of important principles, including the need to actively pursue additional efficiency

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\* Candidate countries, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania as well as potential candidate countries Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

<sup>+</sup> Norway is a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

gains and cost-savings on an ongoing basis. While endorsing the decisions adopted by the PBC in May 2015, we would like to reaffirm these principles.

7. In this context, the EU welcomes the reflection of these principles in the new MTPF and encourages UNIDO to fully implement its provisions in all of their programmes and projects.

8. The European Union addressed many agenda items already at the session of the Programme and Budget Committee in May 2015. Our comments stand.

9. Let me just reiterate that the post-2015 development agenda gives a great opportunity to address some of these key global issues. As the EU has emphasised on various occasions, foremost among these issues are the interrelated challenges of eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development in all its three dimensions (environmental, social and economic). To address these challenges in a coordinated and coherent manner, we need an ambitious agenda, which leaves no-one behind. Through MTPF and the budget UNIDO should prepare itself for the successful implementation of all relevant post 2015 goals.

10. The EU has just adopted a new set of Council Conclusions *on "A New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015"* setting out principles and main components of such a global partnership to which all should contribute. The new global partnership should reflect the paradigm shift to a universal, transformative and inclusive agenda. UNIDO and EU priorities coincide in many areas, e.g. energy, green economy, job creation, gender, health, water, climate change, and food security. The Council Conclusions identify the private sector-led economic growth as the principle creator of jobs which thus contributes to poverty reduction. The private sector should be fully engaged in the implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda. Private finance, including finance from institutional investors, is larger than all public resources combined. Thus, creating a conducive and stable business environment for the private sector and investments is the key, including level playing fields for competition, as are accountable and efficient institutions acting in accordance with the rule of law.

11. The EU and UNIDO can promote structural transformation of the economy and an enabling environment for innovation, entrepreneurship, business and trade. The recent Council Conclusions state that the agenda must recognise that environmental sustainability is fundamental to ensuring the sustainable prosperity and well-being of all people within planetary boundaries. It must unlock the drivers of the green economy, make our economies and lifestyles more equitable and sustainable and more effective in reducing poverty. Full and productive employment and decent work are also the key to addressing inequality and social exclusion. These are all areas in which both the EU and UNIDO are active and cooperating and where we will all be able to contribute to implementing the post-2015 agenda.

12. Policy coherence is needed to promote the positive impacts, while limiting or ideally eliminating the negative impacts of industrial activities. Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is of great importance to the EU in the post-2015 context. Key priorities are promoting the use of energy and resource efficient and environmentally friendly products and gradually eliminating environmentally harmful subsidies. Production issues include promoting innovative and resource-efficient production; corporate sustainability reporting; product life cycle assessment; sustainable construction; waste and chemicals management; as well as the promotion of eco-entrepreneurship and eco-innovation. A stable, predictable and

transparent legal regime based on the rule of law creates an environment conducive to investment, enterprise and growth. We are convinced that our priorities and UNIDO's activities can well be implemented together.

13. Achieving women's economic empowerment requires a long-term and comprehensive approach which recognises that women's economic opportunities and outcomes are shaped by what happens in the economy, but also in social affairs, such as access to quality secondary and tertiary education, respectful reproductive healthcare, and more equal gender power relations in the family and wider society. We recall that gender equality policies are vital for economic growth, prosperity and competitiveness and we reaffirm the need to reinforce governance by integrating a gender perspective into all policy areas. We would appreciate more engagement of the Organisation in the promotion of equal opportunities for women in production and trade, equal economic rights, equal access to the labour market. UNIDO should also make additional efforts to increase the percentage of women in the Organisation, in particular in the professional and managerial category of posts.

14. UNIDO and the EU share a common interest to continue cooperating. At present, this takes the form of EU-funded regional and national projects and programmes in over 80 countries. Over the last 10 years they have amounted to around 95 million euro and centred on poverty reduction through productive activities. The EU has also started to work with UNIDO in sustainable energy, green economy and sustainable and cleaner production patterns – all of them strategic sectors. We are open to discussing with UNIDO new projects and programmes that match our partners' priorities in areas where UNIDO has established expertise and can provide value for money. Our future cooperation should look to further mobilise the private sector and deliver holistic, inclusive and sustainable development. Cooperation between the EU and UNIDO has been steadily growing in the last years.

15. The European Union underlines the importance of an experienced and independent evaluator of the Organisation of its programmes and projects as an essential asset for the mobilisation of financial resources from donors and partners.

16. We encourage UNIDO to adopt a more balanced approach focused on qualitative and quantitative success criteria, to scale up the projects, and to diversify its sources of funding, including through public-private partnerships.

17. We encourage recipient countries and UNIDO to take the lead in accessing funds available at the country level, as many Member States as well as the European Commission have adopted a decentralised pattern of technical cooperation.

18. We reiterate our commitment to cooperation with UNIDO and our interest in the continued dialogue with the Organisation. We highly value the exchange of information between the Secretariat and Member States and continue calling upon the Secretariat to organise regular briefings on UNIDO's activities.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.