

German Statement**16th UNIDO General Conference
Vienna, 30 November to 4 December 2015****Statement by Dr. Peter Failer, Director-General for International Development Policy,
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Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor.

My delegation would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, and the other members of the Bureau, on your election, and would like to wish all Member States successful deliberations.

The German Delegation associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Let me also join in congratulating you, Chair, and Director General Li Yong for your efforts to make this General Conference a success. For me, it is a great pleasure to be back on UNIDO's premises. I have good memories of working for this organization from 1988 to 1994. Much has changed since then but one thing has remained true over all these years: UNIDO is the only international organization with the mandate to promote industrial development. And the need to do this has remained just the same since I worked for UNIDO.

Without industrialization, there can be no sustainable economic development. Industrialization creates income and employment and thus helps reduce poverty and inequality. The 2030 Agenda acknowledges this essential role as the primary source of income generation in Sustainable Development Goal number 9. UNIDO now has the unique opportunity to shape this goal and prove its value to the international community.

For this reason, it is essential that UNIDO focuses on its core mandate. At the same time, UNIDO can offer its rich expertise on building economically, socially and ecologically sustainable industries. Germany and UNIDO are cooperating successfully on advising partner countries on industrial policy and its implementation. Together, we support the development of local pharmaceutical industries in developing countries. This industry might not first come to mind when one thinks about industrialization, but it is an industry with strong impacts for the local health sector. We see a great deal of potential for the private sector in this area, and a positive impact when it comes to combating diseases and poor health standards.

The climate change conference is now beginning in Paris. This is a good opportunity to reflect on the relation between industrialization and environment. Industrialization has proven to be the major means of moving nations out of poverty. However, all too often this has re-

sulted in the degradation of their environment – and, in some cases, of the global environment. However, we do not believe that industrialization and climate change are opposites. A number of approaches exist, notably in Germany, to marry them successfully. Germany recognizes the work of UNIDO in adapting, demonstrating and transferring the relevant knowledge to allow emerging and developing economies, too, to pursue industrialization while preserving the environment.

For us, the biggest challenge now though lies in the hundreds of thousands who are fleeing their countries to escape war or poverty. Development cooperation is an important pillar when it comes to helping to create decent living conditions. The international community and its organizations have to become more active in combating the root causes of the utter despair which makes people leave their home countries. I see UNIDO well equipped to contribute to industrial structures that allow companies to grow and facilitate the creation of jobs.

Germany believes that UNIDO has a valuable service to offer here that is of great importance for developing countries. But we also see that UNIDO is suffering greatly because of the members that have left the organization in the last few years. This is putting even more pressure on the leadership and the staff to deliver more for less. I want to assure you that Germany is highly interested in strengthening the organization's profile and visibility. We all know that doing good is not enough these days: communicating successes is of the utmost importance when it comes to being perceived as a problem solver. We encourage UNIDO to do more in this respect.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the renewal of the mandate of the German Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) as an external auditor of UNIDO for the biennium 2016 to 2017. Our SAI would highly appreciate being given the mandate to continue its work for the next biennium, as we can already look back on successful cooperation in working with UNIDO. We are convinced that our SAI's innovative audit approach will help UNIDO to make the best use of its financial resources, put funds to more effective use and increase the beneficial impact on the people whose living conditions the organization seeks to improve. This will further enhance the organization's positive image.

I assure you that Germany will remain committed to UNIDO because we believe in the purpose of the organization. This has been our belief for a long time, but today we have to defend it more than ever.

Thank you very much.