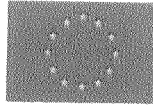


FED. LUXEMBOURG



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the
Sixteenth General Conference of the
United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
Vienna, 30 November to 4 December 2015**

Thank you Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey[§], the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia^{*}, Montenegro^{*}, Serbia^{*}, Albania^{*}, Bosnia and Herzegovina^{*}, Iceland[‡], Norway[‡], Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Armenia.
2. Allow me first, Madam Chair, to congratulate you on your election and to assure you of our full cooperation towards a successful outcome of this General Conference. I would also like to thank the Director General and the Secretariat for the organisation of the conference and for all related documentation. We welcome the ongoing openness and exchange of information, including through the open data platform and the regular Secretariat briefings on UNIDO's activities.
3. The EU would like to commend the Director General for carrying forward program priorities from the current biennium into 2016 and 2017. We recall the Conclusions of 31st Session of the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC), which, when adopting the biennium budget, underlined a number of important principles, including the need to actively pursue additional efficiency gains and cost-savings on an ongoing basis. We reaffirm these principles, as also reflected in the Medium Term Framework Program, and encourage UNIDO to fully implement them.
4. Madame Chair, in September, our Heads of State and Government adopted the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, which will guide us in the years to come. It is important for each international organisation to define its tasks under that Agenda, so that synergies can be created and duplication of work can be avoided. We believe that Sustainable Development Goal 9 clearly underpins UNIDO's core mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, with the more specific target to double industry's share of employment and gross domestic product in least developed countries, by 2030.

[§] Candidate Country

^{*} Candidate Countries Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

[‡] Iceland and Norway are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

5. When focusing on this core task, UNIDO can also contribute to the achievement of other agreed goals and targets. One important point is that sustainable industry must be resource efficient, rely on environmentally sound technologies and processes, and use clean energy. This goes hand in hand with our objective to substantially increase the use of renewable energy and to double energy efficiency performance, as foreseen in SDG 7, and will contribute to combating climate change (SDG 13) and to realising sustainable patterns of production and consumption (SDG 12).
6. Another important objective is the creation of decent work for all and in particular for women and youth, as set out in SDG 8. Every new job can lift an entire family out of poverty, and women's economic empowerment is most likely to help provide food, education, and health-care for children and the community as a whole. A focused investment in decent work for women thus contributes directly to the achievement of the first five key objectives of our Agenda: to end poverty and hunger, while promoting health, education and gender equality.
7. In more practical terms, Madam Chair, the creation of job opportunities in clean industry and the support of small and medium sized enterprises, have great potential to help achieve sustainable development goals, in particular if they use clean energy and provide for waste disposal and water treatment.
8. Madam Chair, Cooperation between the EU and UNIDO has been steadily growing and now covers over 80 countries. The EU Member States are the main contributors to UNIDO's regular budget and the EU and its Member States together also provide one of the largest contributions to UNIDO's technical cooperation activities. We are open to discussing new projects and programmes that match our partners' priorities in areas where UNIDO has established expertise and can provide value for money. We should also look to further mobilise the private sector to deliver inclusive and sustainable development. We encourage UNIDO to adopt a balanced approach focused on qualitative and quantitative success criteria, to scale up the projects, and to diversify its sources of funding. We also underline the importance of monitoring the implementation of projects and programs to ensure high quality results and a maximum impact.
9. We reiterate our commitment to cooperation with UNIDO and our interest in the continued dialogue with the Organisation.

I thank you, Madam Chair.