

Statement of Norway on the occasion of the
UNIDO General Conference
Vienna, 30 November – 4 December 2015

Thank you, Madam President,

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

Norway sincerely thanks Director General LI Yong for his opening statement and for his dedication to the important work of UNIDO. We are impressed by the transformative and results oriented work taking place and the ongoing efforts to achieve more with less resources. Also, we thank him particularly for his strong focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women. We are honoured that he appointed Ms. Janne Vangen Solheim, Chief Executive Officer of the Norwegian garment manufacturing company Janusfabrikken AS, as UNIDO's Goodwill Ambassador for Manufacturing.

As one of the major contributors to the UN and its development agenda Norway is committed to UNIDO's work. We have been one of the main donors of the organization. It is important that the organization delivers in a concrete manner on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular on the SDG 9 pertaining to inclusive and sustainable industrialization.

To meet global poverty challenges, we need value creation, we need employment and we need inclusive and sustainable industrialization. But, other SDGs are also highly relevant to the work of UNIDO. Such as those pertaining to renewable energy, climate change, decent work, gender, governance, education and sustainable patterns of production and consumption. Indeed, our approach to delivering on the SDGs must be holistic and comprehensive.

We need sustainable and inclusive growth to employ new generations of women, men and youth. We need to enhance the private sector and foreign direct investment. There is ample evidence showing the correlation between a strong private sector and good governance on the one hand and job creation and inclusive sustainable development on the other. Here sound industrial policies play a pivotal role. Business needs stable conditions to develop and be competitive. At the core is: Good governance through rule of law, transparency, level playing field and accountability. In this regard, the experience from my

own country shows the importance of mechanisms for dialog between the social partners for value creation, transformation and innovation.

Madame President,

UNIDO has an important and catalytic role to play in assisting countries in promoting industrial development, decent jobs and a robust private sector. Through building partnerships, UNIDO will help meet SDG 8 on creating decent work for all – women, men and youth alike. This is a daunting challenge as new generations of youth enter the labour market. Together we must help meet the aspirations of the young. They represent our future. Many of them are women. For countries to develop and grow, it is imperative that all citizens have the possibility to realize their full potential thorough equal rights.

We know that a high proportion of women in the labour market leads to greater economic growth. If 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 would be considerable. Inclusiveness and equality is simply smart economics.

In his speech Director General Li Yong said that “Gender equality and the empowerment of women, is close to his heart”. I thank him for this and hope his words are contagious. He certainly has the full support of my government. The Director General has underlined that inclusive and sustainable industrial development means that everyone must benefit from industrial growth and that prosperity should be shared equally and fairly among women and men in all countries. Statistics show present day huge gaps in this area.

Norway warmly welcomes the dedicated work done to develop the UNIDO’s Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Strategy 2016-2019. We believe this will a valuable tool to continue to integrate a gender perspective into its programmes, policies and organizational practices, as well as efforts to achieve the goal of gender parity.

To support the work of UNIDO and to promote the implementation of the SDGs and the Lima Declaration, Norway has tabled a draft resolution under agenda item 15 “UNIDO, Gender Equality and the Empowerment of women”. We do so against the background of positive developments in many regions on this topic. Let me mention this year’s Africa Industrialization Day last week in Vienna with the title “SMEs for Poverty Eradication and Job Creation for women and youth”. Also, 31 years have passed since UNIDO had its last resolution regarding women in industrial development. The spirit of cooperation that Norway experiences in the work on this year’s resolution gives

ground for expressions of sincere gratitude to fellow colleagues from all regions of the world.

Madame President, as a donor country Norway welcomes UNIDO's wide Transparency Initiative, the Open Data Platform and the development of a new results monitoring system. These new systems will promote confidence and facilitate the work of the organization. Also, they pave the way for efficiency gains.

We value the work of 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, independent evaluation is crucial to ensure a sustainable development of the organisation. We build success through our willingness to learn from past experience.

Finally, we encourage UNIDO to continue to strengthen cooperation with other UN agencies. Norway is a strong proponent of the UN delivering as one.

We need to build strong and resilient partnerships to reach our common objectives, as reflected in the SDGs and the Lima Declaration.

Thank you.

