



**UNIDO Director General's
Welcoming remarks
UN Day
Astana EXPO 2017 "Future Energy"
13 June 2017, open air in close vicinity to the
International Organizations' Pavilion at the EXPO site**

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Colleagues and friends,

It is a great pleasure to celebrate with you today the United Nations' participation in the Astana EXPO 2017.

I have the privilege to address you today on behalf of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and would like to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate Kazakhstan on the successful hosting of the Astana EXPO 2017.

Let me also commend the initiative of the President of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, to establish an International Centre for Green Technology and Investment Projects in the premises of Astana EXPO 2017. I congratulate Kazakhstan for leading the efforts of the international community in the field of sustainable energy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The theme of this EXPO, 'Future Energy', could not be more timely. We are in the second year after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and have recently also committed to the Paris Agreement on climate change. The realization that we need sustainable energy solutions to guarantee our planet's integrity, and achieve sustainable development, has reached all corners of the world - not least due to these two milestones in the global political agenda.

We at UNIDO also recognize the importance of sustainable energy when we support our Member States in achieving industrial development, in a way that is both socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable. We are convinced that sustainable energy provides the foundation for prosperity around the world.

To move the sustainable energy agenda forward, we need to accelerate clean energy innovation. This will be an indispensable part of an effective global response to our shared climate challenges and key to enable societies to prosper.

But we need even more. In order to change the way that energy is produced and consumed, we need holistic technology solutions, entrepreneurship and policy innovation. We also need new financing instruments and build partnerships. Indeed, this was also agreed on by the 1600 decision makers, experts and practitioners, who came together last month at the Vienna Energy Forum, which UNIDO co-organized.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Astana EXPO 2017 brings us one step closer to our common goals. It allows us to take a close look at the current state of energy and to showcase solutions and innovative technologies that will leave a legacy for the future.

For the next three months, we have the chance to demonstrate in the International Organizations Pavilion, how our work can help secure sustainable energy, for example by promoting green finance and green technologies and by facilitating the flow of expertise and best practices across countries. Let me reiterate that we stand ready to join

forces to achieve energy sustainability.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let us use the global momentum for energy sustainability to drive the change we want to see. Let us use this event to learn from each other and inspire each other to create a better tomorrow.

Thank you very much.