



## **UNIDO Director General's**

### **Opening remarks**

#### **First Regional Conference on Sustainable Industrial Development:**

#### **Promoting Sustainable Energy Solutions and Clean Technologies in CIS Countries**

**22 November 2017, 09:00 am, VIC, Conference Room C4**

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,,

On behalf of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, I wish to warmly welcome all of you to the First Regional Conference on Sustainable Industrial Development, which will address the topic of promoting sustainable energy solutions and clean technologies in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). It is a real pleasure to be among decision makers and prominent experts from this remarkable region. I look forward to your insightful discussions on enhancing resource and energy efficiency, and promoting clean technologies across the CIS region.

UNIDO and the Russian Federation share a longstanding history of fruitful cooperation and mutually beneficial partnership, and we are grateful for the country's strong commitment to UNIDO's mission of promoting ISID in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are in an exciting development era marked by the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Sustainable energy solutions and clean technology must be in place to secure our planet's integrity towards achieving sustainable



development.

As we strengthen national ownership of the SDG goals, our ability to galvanize regional action in crafting practical solutions best tailored to the regional context will also become necessary to help us address national and local level challenges. To this end, this regional conference couldn't have been timelier.

The importance of sustainable energy along with clean and resource efficient production practices have long been recognised as a necessary element as we support our Member States to achieve industrial and sustainable development. This approach is applied in our technical cooperation programmes with countries from the CIS region. For the realization of this endeavour, UNIDO works in partnership with major international stakeholders, such as the Global Environment Facility, the European Commission, and other multilateral and bilateral donors. The region has significant potential to tap into the varied opportunities offered by the shift to the circular economy. UNIDO stands ready to support you in this undertaking.

Looking into the future, Industry 4.0 will bring about novel challenges but also incentives for even greater sustainability. For example, the transition towards Industry 4.0 will involve retrofitting existing industrialized systems with state-of-the-art green technologies for digitalized and interconnected industrial production. Such a move would provide sustainable opportunities for developing countries and economies in transition. Success in doing so would increase the share of their industrialization without repeating the mistakes of traditional development pathways. Regions, such as the CIS, will likely to possess the ability to leapfrog and develop smart factories, decentralized micro-grids, optimise energy and resource use, heighten productivity and achieve cost saving at an unprecedented scale.

Ladies and gentlemen,



I sincerely hope that this First Regional Conference on Sustainable Industrial Development will generate ideas and partnerships that can facilitate policy-making and encourage investments. In achieving this result, investments can be translated into concrete solutions on the ground and enable us to leverage a strong climate action in the CIS region through the promotion of sustainable energy and clean technologies.

To spur viable partnerships, I am pleased that we will be inaugurating an interregional EXPO tomorrow as part of this Regional Conference. It will showcase concrete green technical solutions and provide a platform for exchanges in attaining inclusive and sustainable industrial development across the CIS region and beyond.

I look forward to the fruitful discussions that will be taking place today and tomorrow, and count on your active engagement to make this Conference a success. Thank you.