

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

### **First Regional Conference on Sustainable Industrial Development Promoting Sustainable Solutions and Clean Technologies in CIS Countries**

14:30 – 15:00 Closing remarks for Day 2 and for the CIS conference by Mr. Jaime Moll de Alba, Officer-in-Charge, Department of Regional Programmes and Field Representation

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am very honoured and delighted to deliver the concluding remarks on the last day of the First Regional Conference on Sustainable Industrial Development: Promoting Sustainable Solutions and Clean Technologies in CIS Countries, organized by UNIDO.

First of all, I would like to thank my team in the Regional Division for Europe and Central Asia for their enthusiastic and dedicated work while I see that they put their heart and soul to make this event happen. I am extremely pleased that the regional conference was well attended by various stakeholders ranging from government officials and policy makers to industry practitioners and experts. Apart from rich panels that were filled with insightful content, the participants benefitted from the exhibition in the VIC's Rotunda. The EXPO was inaugurated this afternoon and is showcasing very concrete examples of viable business models and technologies available on the market serving as good examples for others.

Tomorrow the conference will continue with a study trip to the local Austrian companies that will demonstrate their forefront business practices in the area of municipal waste treatment, combined power generation and industry 4.0.

I hope that you have also enjoyed networking opportunities throughout the conference and will take advantage of technical expertise that UNIDO staff can offer during the upcoming bilateral meeting this afternoon after the closure of the conference. I look forward to receiving your feedback on these meetings.

I am truly satisfied that our guests were able to experience so many different examples of clean technologies and sustainable energy solutions in industry that could inspire them to scale up their own best business models and search for applicable and commercially viable green industry practices.

You know, we at UNIDO are very happy to be at service to our Member States by providing platforms like this one for establishing a dialogue and expert networks that we are convinced are useful for you. But even more than that, we would like to see a practical application and concrete steps made at different levels. Even the smallest ones, starting from the grassroots level whereby companies' managers become committed to changing their business as usual

models and introducing new sustainable and resource efficient solutions. Equally important, at the highest decision-making level when policy makers who might have obtained a few important takeaways from our discussions and are now better equipped to introduce new policies or strategies improving the national business environment for the increased uptake of clean technologies and innovations with a forward-looking approach.

As we know, one swallow does not make a spring and we need numerous followers and a concerted effort to bring about the critical mass of change into our business as usual practices.

Here I would like again to reiterate our appreciation for a continued support of the Russian Federation to this initiative. I hope that many more convinced followers will appear and we will witness many more new exciting undertakings.

Embarking on the excellent comment from Mr. Georgy Mikhno, Acting Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation during the opening session yesterday, I want to assure you that UNIDO stands prepared and is well equipped to open a new chapter of cooperation with our member States in the CIS region and beyond and support further regional or national initiatives focusing on inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

This definitely requires further hard work as well as intellectual, financial and human resources to fulfill these ambitions intentions.

Therefore let me wish all of us a lot of energy, enthusiasm, shared trust and resolve on our way towards achieving a better future for all.