



Dima Al-Khatib, Acting UN Resident Coordinator in Moldova

Country Programme 2019-2023

Chisinau, 14 May 2019

Ms. Costin, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova

Ms. Omelyan, UNIDO Programme Officer, Regional Division for Europe and Central Asia
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you today, at the launching of the Country Programme prepared by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Government of Moldova, for the years 2019-2023. As Acting Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Moldova, I am proud that our sister agency, UNIDO, will intensify its activities in the country over the next five years aimed at promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Despite the fact that UNIDO is a non-resident agency in Moldova, this Country Programme will allow the Organization to be strongly represented and to deliver effective technical assistance projects in cooperation with the Government and development partners.

The Country Programme will complement the ongoing support provided by the United Nations system to the Republic of Moldova in achieving its major development goals and fulfilling its vision to be a prosperous and modern European country. The strategic priorities of the Programme are therefore fully aligned with Moldova's National Development Strategy, and – continuing the Delivering-as-One approach of the UN system – also consistent with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022.

With the Country Programme for Moldova, UNIDO aims to provide strong support for the Government's efforts to improve the overall competitiveness of the economy through inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The programme will help increase industrial productivity and competitiveness by stimulating entrepreneurship, and by encouraging knowledge and innovation through capacity development and the adoption of international standards as well as the use of best practices. Bringing new and clean technology with practical support to business clusters through the expertise of UNIDO and other UN organisations will be a crucial added-value of the programme. The overarching goal is to support the Government's effort in fully integrating the Moldovan economy into the European Union internal market and global value chains in the future.

With its focus on inclusive and sustainable industrial development, UNIDO strives to change the existing development paradigm and to achieve sustainable development and resilient economic growth by creating jobs, providing equal opportunities and increasing living standards. This will help the Government address some of the most prevalent challenges for Moldovan citizens, including persistent unemployment, large-scale migration and the resulting vulnerability to external shocks.

The new Country Programme is firmly based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will contribute to their achievement in Moldova by the year 2030. The programme's overall focus is on Goal 9, aimed at *building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation*. However, it will also contribute towards the achievement of a host of other SDGs. For example, through the programme's focus on industrial competitiveness and job creation, it will

directly contribute towards the achievement of SDG 8 on *decent work and economic growth*. Its component on sustainable energy and environmental management will furthermore make a positive contribution towards Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy, Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production and towards Goal 13 on climate action. Cross-cutting emphasis on empowering women in the business sector will advance progress towards SDG 5 on gender equality.

Achieving the SDGs requires the partnership of multiple actors, and I am glad that this launching event brings together national stakeholders, the UN family and the donor community with an overarching objective to contribute to delivering on the bold promises of the international community from 2015.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, please allow me to congratulate the Government of Moldova and UNIDO on developing such a pragmatic and solutions-oriented strategic document. Today's event marks the beginning of the implementation of the Country Programme and I hope that we can count on your continued support to make it a success.

Thank you.