

GERMANY

Check against delivery

UNIDO – 18th General Conference

Statement by H.E. Mr. Gerhard Küntzle, Permanent Representative,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

of the Federal Republic of Germany

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(Agenda Item: 7 or 9)

I wish to congratulate our Chair of the eighteenth session of the General Conference, H.E. Mr. Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Industry of the United Arab Emirates. I am confident that under his guidance the General Conference will work successfully and bring UNIDO closer to our common goal – the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, especially UNIDO's signature SDG Nr. 9 on industrialisation, innovation and infrastructure.

I also would like to thank Director General LI Yong and his Secretariat, as well as our host this year, the government of the United Arab Emirates, for preparing and hosting this General Conference.

Germany aligns itself fully with the statement made by the European Union and its Member States. We would like to add the following comments:

The heading of the Conference – Industry 2030 – Innovate..Connect..Transform our future' sets the Agenda for the years to come. With the 3rd Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit (GMIS) taking place in Hannover/Germany from 20/21 April 2020, a trendsetting high level event co-organized by UNIDO, the Ministry of Energy of the United Arab Emirates and the Hannover Trade fair will add substance to these challenging future tasks.

The 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals offers a guiding document which has the transformative potential to achieve peace, stability and sustainable development in the world, since they are all interconnected.

But the Agenda's timely implementation is threatened by multiple risks, such as policy uncertainty, trade tensions, climate change, weak governance, inequalities and exclusion.

This became very clear during the Secretary General's SDG High Level Summit in September in New York. While acknowledging the efforts undertaken so far, we are not on track. Implementation of all SDGs needs to be accelerated if we want to turn the remaining years until 2030 into a decade of delivery. UNIDO, with its specific mandate on SDG 9, can make a substantial contribution to this.

One key factor for peace, stability and sustainable development are strong, functioning multilateral institutions, with a strong UN at their heart. If this is the UN we want, we have to invest into it and nurture it every day.

That is why we have fully supported Secretary-General António Guterres's reforms aimed at creating a more agile, efficient and accountable UN. The ongoing reform of the UN development system is a key element in this greater reform agenda, aimed at enabling the United Nations development system to implement the 2030 Agenda more swiftly and coherently. This investment is long term and might not always entail an immediate benefit - but in the end it will pay off and bring about the UN we collectively want.

In this spirit, Germany has made substantial voluntary contributions to the Special Purpose Trust Fund for the Resident Coordinator System amounting to 10 million euros in 2018 and 2019, respectively; we are considering future contributions within national budgetary rules and procedures.

We acknowledge that the UNDS reform also brings challenges for all parties involved - Member States and the entities of the UNDS, including UNIDO. Therefore, we commend the compromise on the Budget for the 2021-22 biennium, which was found after protracted negotiations during the IDB session. Having said this, agreeing on the budget was not easy for GER, either. Like many others, we had to make substantial concessions, including flexibility on some of our most fundamental budgetary principles. We thank the Secretariat as well as Italy, Spain and others for their unrelenting facilitation work, which in the end led to this compromise. We are pleased to note from document GC.18/6 on UNIDO and the UNDS reform that UNIDO will be taking concrete steps to implement its share in this endeavour.

Chair,

UNIDO is a highly valued and relevant partner to us. Under the guidance of General Director Li Yong UNIDO has become even more significant in recent years. Germany thanks General Director Li for his successful work. As is well known, some African countries are becoming increasingly attractive economic partners for Germany and Europe. This applies in particular to the countries of the Compact With Africa initiative, which we launched in 2017 during Germany's G20 presidency. The fact that foreign direct investment has risen significantly in these countries in recent years goes to show how important the compact with Africa is.

Economic reforms and improved competitiveness have brought forth new, dynamic growth markets in many parts of our neighbouring continent. African countries increasingly offer attractive prospects for companies and investors: a young population, growing availability of workers and skilled labour, rising purchasing power, new markets and integration in global value chains.

With its mandate focusing on SDG 9 UNIDO fulfils a very specific role within the UN Development System. UNIDO's central task will become ever more important, yet: More and higher education standards lead to a higher demand for more and decent employment, with more productivity and improved standards.

Against this backdrop, Germany is honoured to host a bilateral strategic dialogue with UNIDO in Berlin in November. In this way, the German delegation will pick up the momentum from Abu Dhabi which we hope to see reflected in the Abu Dhabi Declaration and the decisions of the General Conference.

Be assured, Director General, that Germany will continue to be a steadfast partner in the future. Together with you and your dedicated staff, we want to carry forward UNIDO's success story.

Thank you, Chair.