

Malta Statement

UNIDO General Conference

Industry 2030 – Innovate. Connect. Transform our Future

3-7 November, 2019

Mr President

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

I first would like to congratulate you on your appointment as President of the General Assembly. I am confident that under Your Excellency's direction, the General Conference will be a success and it will provide a positive contribution to further the principles for which the Organisation stands.

The theme chosen for the 18th Session of the General Conference is forward-looking. We are faced with the realisation with which technology is evolving and affecting our daily lives.

UNIDO's mandate is to promote industrial development in a bid to fight poverty ~~eradication~~ and promote sustainability. UNIDO stands in a unique position to seek to bring the private and the public sectors together to embrace a transformative future.

UNIDO's priorities are strongly contributing towards the attainment of the SDGs, by focusing on the importance of creating shared prosperity through job creation.

Mr. President

Malta believes that the multilateral approach is the best way forward when addressing global challenges by putting international cooperation based on rules, peace and diplomacy at the centre. Within UNIDO, Malta albeit its size, works together with long-standing and new global partners to deliver on shared goals and ambitions, and on citizens' expectations.

Malta fully supports approaches like Global Africa because they seek partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, thereby promoting opportunities for employment, investment, knowledge, and skills in developing countries.

Malta believes that the outlook of the international community towards the African continent has to be revisited. By 2050, Africa's population will reach 2.5 billion. Africa has the necessary resources but needs effective and genuine partners to develop its full potential sustainably. The international community must effectively help to develop Africa's youth potential and UNIDO has an important role in helping African businesses find collaborations and strategic partnerships.

Mr. President

Malta is seeking to establish a stronger presence in sub-Saharan Africa as it sees this part of the world as one of the key political and trade partners of the future. Malta will be focussing on Ghana, Ethiopia and South Africa. Malta's commitment to Africa is evident through increased trade and investment interest and increased ODA budget for Africa. Malta believes in a strong development policy that promotes economic and social progress.

The transformative ambitions of the 2030 Agenda can only be achieved through active collaboration, with different actors coming together to work towards a common vision. Only by working together, and admit^{ing} that there is potential in learning from each other can we ensure that the voices of ~~the~~ vulnerable are heard and respected.

Thank You.