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18<sup>th</sup> UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE  
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GENERAL DEBATE  
STATEMENT BY BULGARIA

*Delivered by*

*Mr. Ivan Gospodinov, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria  
to the UN, OSCE and the other international organisation in Vienna*

Mme Vice-President,

First, I wish to congratulate H.E. Mr. Suhail Al Mazrui on his election as President to the 18th session of UNIDO General Conference as well as the other members of the Bureau. I can assure you of my delegation's full support in the fulfilment of your important duty.

In addition to the statement delivered by the EU, I wish to make a few remarks in national capacity.

Bulgaria fully shares the conclusions and the priorities identified in the 2019 UN Annual report, presented by the UN Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres at the 74th Session of the UN General assembly. Poverty and hunger eradication, climate action and quality education are inherent to preserving peace and fostering prosperity. We therefore welcome the focus of the 18<sup>th</sup> UNIDO General conference on Innovation as a tool to connect and transform the future and eventually contribute to the promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

My country pays particular attention to climate action aiming at reducing climate change. Bulgaria stands by its obligations undertaken under the Paris Agreement. My country is dedicated to transform its economy in a way, which will contribute to the common goal of

keeping temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and reaching net zero global emissions by 2050. Bulgaria has already reached the interim target of 18% share of renewable sources in the energy mix. Promotion of renewable and sustainable energy sources will be an essential aspect of UNIDO's role in reaching sustainable industrial development. In this regard, we support the resolution tabled by EU on Energy and Environment as an important step in this direction.

The contribution of UNIDO to job creation with a focus on youth and women is of particular importance for Bulgaria. The promotion of decent employment is not only a tool to fight poverty and hunger but a vehicle for sustainable economic and social growth against the background of global dynamic migration of labour force.

This year, Secretary-General Guterres marked the first-ever International Day of Education on January 24, putting education at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Bulgaria whole-heartedly subscribes to his assessment that education is an engine for poverty eradication and a driving force for peace.

As a member of the Human Rights Council Bulgaria is committed to the empowerment of children with disabilities through inclusive education. Inclusive education is an essential tool for the whole process of social inclusion. In a world driven by information and communication technologies, we place a particular emphasis on the opportunities offered by education.

Bulgaria is satisfied with the fact that the issue of circular economies is going high in UNIDO's agenda. Closing the product lifecycles through greater recycling and re-use, increases product value and contributes to environmental protection, the creation of jobs and the economic growth as a whole.

Mme Vice-President,

The achievement of Agenda 2030 goals is unlikely without public-private partnerships between states, civil society, international organizations and private sector. This stands particularly true for goal 9. UNIDO as a platform for international cooperation in industrial development can better accomplish its mission when States provide bridges for private

sector, academia and civil sector to jointly reach out to the communities and meet their needs.

Let me conclude by saying that UNIDO's role for reaching the goals of the UN development Agenda is indisputable. We therefore note with satisfaction that consensus has been reached within the Industrial Development Board on UNIDO's financial participation in the UN development system of resident coordinator. This will increase the efficiency and the effectiveness of the International donor community's efforts to enhance economic and social advancement in the countries on their way to industrial development, Last but not least, I would like to extend my delegation's warmest gratitude to the Government of UAE for their hospitality and the impeccable organization of the General conference.

Thank you!

