



**European Union**  
**Statement on the Occasion of the**  
**Forty Eighth Session of the Industrial Development Board of the**  
**United Nations Industrial Development Organisation**  
**(Vienna, 23-25 November 2020)**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Norway+, Armenia, The Republic of North Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\*, Albania\*, Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

Allow me first to welcome you as Chair of this 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Industrial Development Board and to assure you of our cooperation. We thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the background documents in support of our work.

Let me recall that the EU Delegation in Vienna marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations by launching a one week social media campaign, together with UNIDO. Through examples of EU funded and UNIDO implemented projects and programmes in over 100 countries on all continents, we demonstrated the EU and UNIDO's commitment to supporting communities and to building TOGETHER a more just, sustainable and equitable post-COVID-19 world for all, focusing especially on women and youth. The new, EU-UNIDO interactive webpage, together with the social media efforts, reached over 100.000 people.

Mr. Chair,

We note with concern the impact of COVID-19 on reversing hard-won development gains. Now is the time to reiterate our full commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as the blueprint for building back better and greener. The European Union is fully engaged with the UN's call to 'Recover better' after the crisis. The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, launched a Global Recovery Initiative, linking investment and debt relief to the Sustainable Development Goals. The EU and its Member States are jointly working, as **Team EUROPE**, together with our finance institutions, to address the recovery needs of our partner countries. We have mobilised nearly 37 billion EUR this year to address and mitigate the health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic.

The EU strongly supports the reform of the UN Development System (UNDS) as indispensable for making the UN 'fit for purpose' for a more effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, for reducing duplications and maximising synergies. We take note of the Report by the Director General contained in document IDB.48/10 and we look forward to receiving updated information regarding UNIDO's alignment with UNDS reform, in particular at the country level, as well as efforts undertaken to implement the Funding Compact.

We reiterate our commitment to a sustainably resourced and efficiently managed UNIDO that pursues cost efficiency and delivers on its mandate. We took note of the 2019 External Auditor's report on the accounts of UNIDO and we call on all Member States, particularly those 102, currently in arrears, to pay their assessed contributions in time, in full and without conditions. We look forward to the full implementation of the updated Integrated Results and Performance Framework in line with the Medium-Term Programme Framework 2018-2021 and of the results-

\* Candidate Countries The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Norway is a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

based budgeting principles in the next UNIDO programme and budget. We welcome the approval of the Accountability Framework, the Internal Control Framework and the Enterprise Risk Management Policy, aimed at strengthening the key-management systems of the Organisation. We would still appreciate receiving the information about the comparative advantages of the newly introduced structure and the new top management appointments for improving the efficiency and the effectiveness of the Secretariat.

We thank the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) for the independent assessment of UNIDO's performance. We encourage UNIDO to consider implementing its findings, particularly on the need to clarify its future strategy and the objectives of its normative role; to improve main organisational issues such as decentralisation and risk and results-based management; as well as to address cross-cutting priorities, such as good governance and human rights.

Mr. Chair,

We reiterate our commitment to UNIDO's technical cooperation projects and programs that match our partners' priorities in areas where UNIDO has established expertise and can provide added value. In the context of combating climate change, the EU attaches particular importance to reaching the objectives of the Paris Agreement. We proposed the Resolution on Energy and Environment, which seeks to scale-up UNIDO's activities in that regard and highlights the importance of circular economies. Guided by the Abu Dhabi Declaration we seek to further mobilise the private sector to create decent work and deliver inclusive and sustainable development, focusing on Low Income Countries and Least Developed Countries. In this regard, we support UNIDO's leading role in the implementation of the Third Development Decade for Africa (IDDAlII) and are looking forward to concrete results of the coordination efforts which it has undertaken with other agencies and major donors. The EU has already submitted a compilation of its Africa-centred programmes. During the African Union Summit on Industrialisation and Economic Diversification (16-20 November) and in partnership with UNIDO, we presented successful examples of our joint cooperation in the IDDAlII framework.

Gender equality is a key component of inclusive and sustainable industrial development and a clear strategic priority of UNIDO. The EU, together with many Member States, have been consistent in urging the Secretariat, in line with the United Nations-wide Gender Parity Strategy, to use every opportunity to achieve gender equality in the Organisation, particularly at senior management level. We also look forward to being regularly informed about the implementation of the new UNIDO Strategy for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women 2020–2023 and the UNIDO Gender Parity Action Plan 2018-2023.

We would encourage UNIDO to examine the current implementation of its programmes and projects against the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The EU and its Member States, as the main and the largest contributors to the organisation, are open to discussing new initiatives to ensure efficiency and results that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in a durable way.

Thank you, Mr. Chair!