

## UNIDO IDB 48<sup>th</sup>, 23-25 November – Statement of the Republic of Cyprus

Mr Chairperson,

Let me begin by welcoming you as Chair of this 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Industrial Development Board. I am confident that your able leadership will guide the process of this session to a successful conclusion and wish to assure you of my Delegation's full support.

At the very outset, let me state that Cyprus aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, but would like to add some brief remarks in a national capacity.

Mr Chairperson,

Cyprus welcomes the Annual report of UNIDO, which affirms the positive developments and achievements for the year 2019. The Republic of Cyprus has always attached great importance to UNIDO's work, its projects and programmes implemented in 125 countries.

This year has been very special, as the pandemic's effects have proven extremely disruptive to all of our societies, exposing vulnerabilities and worsening pre-existing inequalities. The global impact and challenges posed by the Covid19 pandemic necessitate a global response. And the UN system has certainly a central role in responding to the pandemic and its immediate consequences, but also in recovering and rebuilding better.

The pandemic has also led us all to devise new forms of cooperation and coordination. We appreciate UNIDO's efforts to respond to the challenges, assess the impact and adapt to the evolving needs, as well as in keeping all the operations going. We also thank the Director General for his leadership and the Secretariat for its work under extraordinary circumstances.

We note with satisfaction UNIDO's commitment to the ongoing reform of the UN Development System on the way to make it 'fit for purpose' for a more efficient, effective and coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. The Republic of Cyprus stands ready to support UNIDO's effort and commitment to strengthening the United Nations development system and its collective response in support of the SDGs. A sustainably resourced and efficiently managed UNIDO that delivers on its mandate to help countries to realise sustainable and inclusive industrialization is determinant towards this direction. In this regard, we commend UNIDO for the presentation of the first Results-Based Budget for the years 2022-2023 and look forward for its application.

We also equally note with satisfaction UNIDO's Project on Strategic Engagement with Emerging Donors, including the Republic of Cyprus.

We particularly praise UNIDO for its commitment to promote Gender equality and women's economic empowerment, through, inter alia, the UNIDO Strategy for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women 2020-2023 and the UNIDO Gender Parity Action Plan 2018-2023. Empowering women leads to greater prosperity, economic growth, productivity and enhances innovation. Women's empowerment is deeply anchored in the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in recognition of the key role of women as agents of change.

The post-pandemic recovery measures which aim for more resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies, and to reshape industrial development towards environmentally sound technologies, provide a good opportunity to harness women's full potential as leaders, innovators and agents of industrial and environmental change.

Gender equality forms one of the Republic of Cyprus priorities and we aim for a more active role in regional and global efforts to promote this goal. In this framework, Cyprus is co-organising with UNIDO a workshop on "Women Entrepreneurs for inclusive and sustainable growth in the MENA region", planned for spring 2021 in Cyprus. The workshop aims to bring together women's business association representatives and entrepreneurs from countries from both shores of the Mediterranean with their Cypriot counterparts. We believe that networking and knowledge sharing platforms can help us to share best practices and information on what works in advancing the goal of women's empowerment.

Cyprus is confident that UNIDO will continue to represent a platform of change and innovation and strive, together with its member-states, to reduce poverty and inequality.

Thank you Mr Chairperson.