

# Finland's statement at UNIDO IDB48

*Agenda item 3*

---

**Mister Chair,**

Since this is the first time I'm taking the floor, let me congratulate you for your selection as the Chair of the forty-eighth IDB. I also wish to congratulate the Vice-Chairs as well as the Rapporteur of the IDB.

I also want to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for being able to organize this important event in very serious circumstances.

-----

**Distinguished delegates,**

Finland aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. Let me give a few remarks also in our national capacity.

Finland welcomes the Annual Report of the Director General. Finland appreciates the valuable and diverse work that UNIDO has done for the benefit of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. UNIDO's role will be even more crucial when the world starts gradually recovering from the massive negative impact of the covid pandemic.

Finland stands firmly committed to the international initiative of Building Back Better. In particular, we emphasize the pertinent inclusion of the word "Greener" to highlight the importance of climate sustainability and low-carbon development: we must join our forces in every platform to "Building Back Better and Greener".

-----

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Finland will work together with UNIDO in helping to find inclusive and sustainable solutions to some of the most burning environmental and climate concerns. We are in the process of finalizing our joint commitment to circular economy in the cooperation between UNIDO and Finland.

Finland was the first country in the world to prepare a national roadmap for circular economy. The driving force behind the roadmap was SITRA, the Finnish Innovation Fund. Therefore, I'm particularly proud that we managed to get one of the leading experts from the Innovation Fund to contribute to the consultations on circular economy that UNIDO has initiated very recently.

-----

### **Friends and colleagues,**

Finland has emphasized the importance of gender questions in UNIDO's work. The rights and status of women and girls and gender equality is our number one priority of development funding.

Finland has supported UNIDO's gender activities in multiple ways. Finland is happy to be one of the co-leads in the Representation Impact Group, and we commend DG Li for launching it. We have organized events together with UNIDO and other partners, such as the "Vienna Discussion Forum", taking place again on Friday. We have also helped with resolutions on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Financial support is also considerable and still increasing: for the first time in history, we will reserve a share of our voluntary contribution to be allocated directly to the gender activities. Furthermore, Finland funds a Finnish Junior Professional Officer working on partnerships and gender in UNIDO.

Finland keeps on monitoring the progress of the Gender Strategy as well as of UNIDO Gender Parity Action Plan closely. In this regard, I want to remind the Director General's responsibility to work tirelessly for gender equality. The Gender Office must have sufficient resources to be able to do its highly important work. We also want to see more women in UNIDO, especially in the top positions.

-----

As a conclusion, Chair, let me once again express our appreciation for UNIDO's efforts to build resilience to developing countries. We must all act together and ensure that no one is left behind. We must build back better and greener – and with equality for all.

Thank you very much.