



Permanent Mission of Italy
International Organisations - Vienna

**Statement by the Italian Permanent Representative
Ambassador Alessandro Cortese
48th Session of UNIDO Industrial Development Board
23 - 25 November 2020
Agenda item 3 - Annual Report of the Director General for 2019**

Thank you, Mister President.

At the outset, I wish to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election and on your efforts - as well as on those of the outgoing President - for holding the current session of the Industrial Development Board as planned, despite the challenging circumstances. I assure you of the full support of the Italian delegation.

The statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of the European Union fully reflects the views of Italy. I now wish to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mister President,

as we all continue to deal with the unprecedented crisis caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, we commend the Director General and the Secretariat for implementing the necessary measures to protect the staff, while ensuring business continuity and providing assistance to Member States to tackle the socio-economic effects of the pandemic and to recover better.

As the Director General said, the current crisis is putting the world, and in particular low-income Countries, off-track from the path envisaged by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Italy is strongly committed to work together with UNIDO and all Member States, with a view to building back and ensuring a more equitable, inclusive, sustainable, resilient and greener future, including through our incoming presidency of the G20 and current co-presidency of the COP26 with the United Kingdom.

Mister President,

being one of the largest bilateral donors to UNIDO, Italy remains committed to supporting the Organization, in light of its qualified experience, in the promotion of economic opportunities and environmental protection, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. Our financial and technical support to UNIDO remains highly significant: Italy is currently funding a portfolio of 30 initiatives in domains such as women and youth empowerment, investment and job promotion, capacity-building and private sector development, as well

as agribusiness, renewable energy, energy efficiency and circular economy. Italy has also renewed its traditional support to UNIDO through the Junior Professional Officer programme, by financing this year one position in the Department of Energy.

Mister President,

accountability, management efficiency and programme effectiveness are key to enable UNIDO to continue to deliver its activities within a framework of limited resources.

We therefore welcome the approval of the accountability and the internal control frameworks as well as of the enterprise risk management policy, and we look forward to the full implementation of the results-based budget principles and the updated Integrated Results and Performance Framework, in line with the Medium-term Programme Framework 2018 - 2021.

We also look forward to continuing the discussions on the empowerment of UNIDO's field network, within the United Nations Development System reform, and to receiving detailed information on the implications of the recent Secretariat restructuring on UNIDO's activities and management, as well as on its current and future budget cycles.

Thank you, Mister President.