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VIENNA



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
VIENNA

Statement of the Republic of Malta

for the 48th Session of the Industrial Development Board

23-25 November 2020

Mr. President

Malta fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

I would like to make the following comments in my national capacity.

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as President of the 48th Session of the IDB and to thank the Secretariat for their valuable work done in preparation for this session.

Allow me also to express my gratitude to Director General LI Yong for his tireless efforts in guiding UNIDO towards the attainment of the 2030 Agenda objectives and for his engagement with international key players towards a resilient recovery from the negative impact of the pandemic.

We welcome the presentation on the updated Integrated Results and Performance Framework in line with the Medium-Term Program Framework 2018-2021, underlining the importance of the results-based budgeting principles in the next UNIDO program and budget.

We also welcome the report of the 2019 accounts submitted by the External Auditor and we fully support his recommendations on increased management

accountability, effectiveness of activities, and transparency, by addressing future risks and liabilities for UNIDO.

In line with this we would appreciate to receive additional information on the newly introduced structure and the new top management appointments, and how these will improve the efficiency and the effectiveness of the Secretariat. Furthermore, Malta firmly believes that the UN Development System (UNDS), is a key tool which could facilitate the implementation of the SDGs and should be utilized by UNIDO in maximizing synergies with other partners in the areas of our work.

Mr. President,

For Malta gender equality is not only a key component for achieving an inclusive society. Gender equality is considered as an essential aspect of our sustainable industrial development, and fundamental to boost our economic growth further. In the last few years, a number of measures were implemented to attract more women to the job market. These ranged from providing universal access to free childcare, including before and after-school care, to the extension of maternity and paternity leave. Training programs were also put in place to increase employability. Thanks to these measures Malta has witnessed a considerable increase in the participation of women in its workforce. Malta would therefore welcome and indeed encourage all efforts to include gender equality as one of UNIDO's strategic priorities.

In this regard Malta shares the Audit Advisory Committee's concern about the gender balance in UNIDO's senior management and calls on UNIDO to use every opportunity to promote gender equality in the Organization. In line

with all this we support a standing item on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the agenda of the IDB.

Mr. President,

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. We commend UNIDO's role in supporting environmentally sustainable industries and we welcome the initiative of the secretariat to launch consultations on the circular economy in accordance with resolution 18/7 proposed by the EU. We therefore look forward to further mobilize the private sector to create decent work and deliver inclusive and sustainable development. We encourage UNIDO to focus clearly on the creation of jobs and to scale up technical cooperation in Least Developed Countries and in countries facing instability.

Malta welcomes the launch of the African Continental Trade Agreement (AfCTA). This is in line with our recent policy to shift the focus from mere aid to trade and aid. Aside from becoming trusted business partners, trade enables us to engage in long-term sustainable commitments which can generate economic growth and industrial development, while creating jobs and opportunities for Africans. In this regard Malta fully supports the agreement, brokered by the African Union, which requires members to remove tariffs within Africa on 90 per cent of goods, allowing free access to commodities, goods and services across the continent.

As our economies readjust to the challenges of COVID-19, it is important for UNIDO to observe and support these developments on our neighboring continent to ensure that African growth translates into better livelihoods for

its people through improved quality jobs, better governance and more sustainable economies that will help us all plan for the new economies of the future.

Finally, we would like to express our support for the good number of resolutions and decisions presented to this IDB that are important for the Organization to carry on with its various mandates and to address the challenges posed, including by the present pandemic.

Thank you, Mr. President