

Statement by Hungary
at the Forty-Eighth Session of the Industrial Development
Board of the United Nations Industrial Development
Organization
Vienna, 23-25 November 2020

Agenda Item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2019

Thank you, Mr. President,

allow me first to congratulate you on your election as President of the forty-eighth session of the Industrial Development Board of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, as well as other members of the bureau on their election. I am confident that with your able leadership, we will have a very successful session and I want to confirm the full support of the Hungarian delegation to your endeavors and our common goals. I also take this opportunity to convey my special thanks to the outgoing President with her bureau for their commendable work. I also thank the Director General and the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing this session of the Board.

The statement delivered by the representative of the European Union fully reflects the Hungarian views on the items of the agenda. Allow me to convey some additional remarks in my national capacity.

At the outset, let me thank the Director General for his annual report on the activities of the Organization in 2019 contained in document IDB.48/2.

Hungary acknowledges UNIDO's commitment and efforts to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the role of UNIDO as a platform for private sector cooperation and in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

We are of the view that the Annual Report 2019 summarizes further successful initiatives, actions, projects and positive developments since the last annual report in favor of improving competitiveness, reducing unemployment rate and respond to the climate change among others and supporting countries to realize sustainable and inclusive industrialization and economic growth as urgent areas of action in our time. Hungary welcomes the positive achievements on the policy and operational levels done by UNIDO in 2019.

We positively noted the impact of UNIDO's work to reduce poverty and inequality, while safeguarding the environment.

However, we emphasize the importance of the full implementation of the ongoing reform of the UN Development System by UNIDO. Hungary strongly supports the reform for maximizing synergies and for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We kindly ask the Secretariat for keeping us continuously informed how UNIDO creates synergies and cost efficiency within the UNIDO's field network and the UN resident coordinator system.

We place high value in UNIDO's role as a platform for partnership, bringing together donor countries, the private sector, financial institutions and recipient countries.

Please allow me to mention Hungary's recent contribution to UNIDO's activities.

Hungary, under the patronage and involving the personal engagement of His Excellency Mr. János Áder, President of Hungary, hosted the Budapest Water Summit 2019, a high-profile conference and exhibition with the motto 'Preventing Water Crises', which was held in Budapest from 15 to 17 October 2019. His Excellency Mr. Péter Szijjártó Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary invited Director General LI Yong to attend as a speaker the Budapest Water Summit 2019 and its Opening Ceremony on 15 October 2019. The Summit was very successful and gave the opportunity of further strengthening our cooperation with UNIDO.

Hungary is unaltered committed to setting up an ITPO office in Budapest, therefore we organized a second preparatory field visit to Hungary in 2019. As a result of the visit, UNIDO together with the competent Hungarian authorities refined the professional content and the budget of the project and the opportunities for collaboration with the UNIDO ITPO network were reconsidered.

During the General Conference in Abu Dhabi, the Hungarian delegation, led by Deputy State Secretary Dr. Ádám Nagy of the Ministry for Innovation and Technology, met with high level representatives of UNIDO to discuss the way forward.

It's my Government's strong intention to raise the participation of Hungarian leaders and experts from the Government at

different ambitious events organized or co-organized by UNIDO. This year, as in previous years, on behalf of the Municipality of Budapest the Deputy Mayor took part as a speaker on the Bridge for Cities 2020 event and highlighted his thoughts on urban innovation.

We take this opportunity to stress the importance of close consultations with Member States. Hungary would like to thank the initiative of UNIDO's Regional Coordination Division for Europe and Central Asia to set up a project "Reinvigorating a Business Model of Strategic Engagement with Emerging Donors". I wish to confirm that Hungary will actively participate in the preparation and implementation of the project.

We note with concern the impact of COVID-19 and we commend the DG, the Secretariat and the whole team of UNIDO for their professional work in 2020 under the continuing constraints and restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, Hungary will continue to offer its constructive partnership to the Organization in identifying and formulating the best ways forward and working together for a sustainable future and remains fully committed to support UNIDO's work and endeavors in the years to come.

Thank you very much Mr. President.