



**European Union**  
**Statement on UNIDO and the UN Development System Reform**  
**Agenda Item 8**  
**Forty Eighth Session of the Industrial Development Board of the**  
**United Nations Industrial Development Organisation**  
**(Vienna, 23-25 November 2020)**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey§, Norway+, Armenia, the Republic of North Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\*, Albania\*, Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

The EU and its Member States have supported the UN development system (UNDS) reform from the outset. Much progress has been made over the last years in making the UN fit for the purpose of helping Member States implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We note with concern the current impact of COVID-19 on reversing hard-won development gains. We should therefore use this Decade of Action to reinvigorate the momentum to deliver the SDGs by 2030. Making this possible will require a strong multilateral approach with international cooperation and a rules based system at its core. We consider the whole UN system, including UNIDO, a key player “to build back better” in an environmentally sustainable way.

The EU and its Member States have been consistent in requesting regular updates regarding UNIDO’s alignment with the UNDS reform, in particular at regional and country level, as well as on its efforts to implement the Funding Compact. Consequently we take note of the recently updated Doc. IDB.48/10 and look forward to discussing it further.

We welcome UNIDO’s efforts in further operationalizing its Strategy and Roadmap to maximize the UNDS reform opportunities, taking into account the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Guidance, issued in May 2020, and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis. In this context we look forward to regular updates on the various actions undertaken by UNIDO to position itself in the context of the UNDS reform, including on the alignment of its Programmes for Country Partnerships and Country Programmes with the new UN Cooperation Frameworks.

We encourage UNIDO to engage further with the Country Teams in ensuring that the economic and environmental dimensions of development are embedded in the respective Cooperation Frameworks. In this regard, we take note that UNIDO has been developing a specific country diagnostic approach, as well as a methodology for country and industry profiles, that will be the Organisation’s direct input in the new common country analyses and cooperation frameworks. We look forward to regular updates on this approach.

Furthermore we look forward to receiving the revised terms of reference for UNIDO’s field offices and to continuing our dialogue with the Secretariat on strengthening their role in implementing the reform at regional and country level.

§ Candidate Country

\* Candidate Countries The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Norway is a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

In terms of the implementation of the Funding compact, we encourage UNIDO to continue its efforts for maximizing the opportunities of the UNDS reform and the new generations of pooled funds as a basis to carry out its mandate in support of the 2030 Agenda. We welcome UNIDO's pro-active approach in submitting project proposals for funding from the Joint SDG Fund and the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, including jointly with other entities of the UN development system. We also encourage the Secretariat to build on this experience and to further continue its collaboration with international and regional organisations, as well as to make every effort to build on synergies and to increase efficiency and effectiveness

Thank you, Chair.