



**European Union**  
**Statement on the UNIDO Activities in the Environment and Energy**  
**Agenda Item 12**  
**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: Norway+, Armenia, the Republic of North Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\*, Albania\*, Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

Chair,

We are living difficult times with the combination of two major crisis: the COVID-19 pandemic and the environmental and climate change emergency. Solving them will need a strong multilateral approach with international cooperation and a rules based system at its core. Unilateral actions simply will not work. We consider the whole UN system, including UNIDO, a key player in addressing these crises.

To overcome the huge economic impact of COVID-19 we need a “green recovery”. We cannot miss this once in a generation opportunity to connect our recovery from the economic impacts of the pandemic to fixing the planetary environmental and climate emergency - for which there will never be a vaccine! A “green recovery” does not mean a trade-off between economic growth and the environment. Sustainability-driven investments are the future. We have to “build back better”. The policies we put in place now must set our infrastructure, agriculture, industries and investments flows on the right path.

Industrialization must also be green. We would like to reiterate our support to UNIDO's activities in environment and energy that help realise sustainable and inclusive industrialization aimed at reducing carbon emissions, waste and pollution, thus contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We remain committed to the priorities outlined in the UNIDO General Conference Resolution 18/7, amongst which is the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and we look forward to working with all UNIDO Member States for achieving its goals.

In line with Resolution 18/7, we encourage the UNIDO’s Secretariat, within the mandate and the resources of the Organisation, to continue scaling up its activities supporting governments and industries to fulfil national commitments under multilateral climate and environmental agreements, while improving health and well-being of people and generating growth and decent work.

We also encourage the Secretariat to further support industries in contributing to climate neutrality and circular economy without delay, by adopting energy and resource efficient manufacturing practices and innovations in design, production processes and product lifespan management, and by delivering related services. To contribute to these goals, last month, the EU and UNIDO launched the “SWITCH to circular economy value chains” project, which is a good example for the implementation of the new EU circular economy action plan in a global context.

\* 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.

Furthermore, the EU, together with Italy and Spain, is funding the SwitchMed initiative, implemented by UNIDO, with the aim of achieving a circular economy in the Southern Mediterranean by changing the way goods and services are produced and consumed.

The EU is proposing a ‘Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency’ and we welcome UNIDO’s support for its establishment. The Global Alliance will aim at supporting the shift to a circular economy and a more efficient use of resources globally. It is expected to be launched on the margin of the fifth meeting of the UN Environment Assembly in February 2021. We encourage all members of UNIDO that are willing to take the leadership in advancing on circular economy and resource efficiency, to join this Alliance.

The EU commends the UNIDO Secretariat for organising technical meetings and consultations for experts from Member States on circular economy, as guided by GC Resolution 18/7. We look forward to fruitful discussions at the regional preparatory meetings this year and at the consultations that will be held in 2021.

Thank you, Chair.