



Congratulatory Statement of the Republic of Malta

at the 49th Session of the Industrial Development Board upon Election of the new DG

12-15 July 2021

Madam President

Malta wishes to congratulate Dr. Gerd Müller on his election as the next UNIDO Director General. We look forward to his appointment at the 19th General Conference and wish him every success in his new position.

We are aware that Dr. Gerd Müller will be taking up the post of Director General at this crucial junction for UNIDO when the overall challenges have become even greater through the post COVID-19 recovery situation in which building back better, greener and smarter and leaving no one behind have all become pressing needs for all Member States. We take this opportunity to reaffirm our support and commitment to UNIDO and we look forward to deepening our co-operation with the Organization under the leadership of the new Director General. Now that the election process is over, we are confident that his leadership will serve as a unifying force for the whole membership and that his able guidance will be instrumental in attracting potential new members and maybe in luring back some of those who left the Organization.

Today's election marks the end of an informative and active campaign by each of the three candidates. We would like to use this opportunity in thanking all three of them, Dr. Arkebe Oqubay, Dr. Gerd Müller und Dr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento for providing inspiring ideas for the future of UNIDO throughout their respective campaigns.

Let me also thank the incumbent Director General Li Yong for his leadership and dedication in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development at the helm of UNIDO for the last 8 years.

Last but not least, we thank you Madam President and your team, for efficiently steering this Session of the IDB throughout the election process.