



**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
TO BE DELIVERED AT THE
19th SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO**

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA
NOVEMBER 2021**

The appointment Of Dr. Gerd Muller as the Director General Of UNIDO

Mr President,

South Africa joins other member states in warmly congratulating Dr Gerd Muller on his appointment as Director General of UNIDO. We would like to express our confidence in his ability to steer the organisation in a manner that would contribute meaningfully to the achievement of Agenda 2030. We assure him of our cooperation and willingness to work alongside him for the betterment of the organisation and its member states.

In doing, we would like to encourage the Director General to ensure that developing countries remain at the heart of the industrialization agenda to ensure that it reaps the socio-economic benefits of the 4th Industrial Revolution and recovers from setbacks suffered as a result of the Covid pandemic.

Industrial development remains crucial for Africa's development and economic growth and it is imperative that UNIDO remains a key partner in assisting the continent transition to its full potential without negatively impacting the livelihoods of those employed in some of its most vulnerable sectors.

We look forward to the next four years of fruitful cooperation in the fulfillment of UNIDO's mandate.

I thank you.