

**STATEMENT OF THE AFRICA GROUP DURING THE 19TH SESSION OF
THE UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE, 29TH NOVEMBER TO 3RD
DECEMBER 2021, DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR FAOUZIA
MEBARKI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIA**

**Welcoming message for Dr. Gerd Müller, the new Director General of
UNIDO**

Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the Africa Group, I wish to express our sincere congratulations to Dr. Gerd Müller on his appointment as Director General of UNIDO and assures him of our utmost readiness to extend our full support and cooperation for him to fulfil his mandate.
2. The Group wishes to underline the continued negative impacts of the Covid-19 virus, and urge UNIDO, under the new leadership, to remain resilient and supportive to the member States.
3. Furthermore, as the world continues to recover from this virus, there is a need to maintain our efforts towards achieving the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, considering the delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. In this regard, the efforts of the new Director General will be instrumental in helping the most affected countries in resuming their course in terms of formulating the industrial policies and implementing the necessary measures related to their industrialization efforts, noting that the Group is confident that he will be capable of achieving this challenging mission.
4. The Group therefore, looks forward to having regular and comprehensive discussions with Dr. Müller to ensure that the policies of UNIDO continue to be formulated in alignment with the priorities of the member states. The Group aspires to an improved, resilient, and agile structure for the organization.

I thank you, Mr. President.