

**Agenda item 6: Appointment of the Director General
(Congratulatory Statement)**

Vienna, 30 November 2021

Mr. President,

At the very outset, let me state that Cyprus aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. We would like to provide some additional remarks in our national capacity.

On behalf of the Republic of Cyprus, I would like to warmly congratulate Dr. Gerd Müller on his appointment as the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and wish him every success in his high duties.

Dr. Gerd Müller takes up the steering wheel of UNIDO at a critical juncture for UNIDO as well as the global development agenda. The unprecedented crisis caused by COVID-19 has impacted the livelihood of people and the economic prosperity of our societies. Decisive action is needed to build more sustainable economies and resilient societies, as well as reshape industrial development towards environmentally sound technologies, whilst continuing our efforts towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The promotion of gender equality and women's economic empowerment is also key towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and crucial in UNIDO's work.

My Delegation believes that all the above require partnerships between governments, international organisations, civil society and private sector. We are confident that Dr Müller will further enhance UNIDO's pivotal role in this regard.

The Republic of Cyprus reaffirms its support to UNIDO and its new Director General and we stand ready to contribute towards an inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Thank you Mr President.