

**Agenda Item 3: Congratulatory statement following the appointment of  
the new Director General, Mr. Gerd Müller,  
To be delivered by Ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar  
19<sup>th</sup> UNIDO GC, 29 November – 3 December 2021,**

Thank you, Mr. President.

As this is the first time we are taking the floor, I congratulate you, Ambassador Mezghani, on assuming the Chair of the 19<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNIDO. I also welcome the other members of the Bureau and assure you of our full cooperation in the successful conduct of this General Conference.

1. On behalf of the Government of India, I wish to extend warm congratulations to Dr. Gerd Müller on his appointment as the new Director General of UNIDO.

2. It is true that Dr Muller is the first Director General of this Organization that we Member States have chosen from the developed 'West'. Nevertheless, it is also true that Dr Muller's background and long experience as the Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development in his country has equipped him with deep understanding of the needs of countries in the developing world and of how important it is for development to be inclusive.

3. And Dr Muller comes from Germany, an industrial powerhouse and one of the countries at the forefront of the technologies being developed for sustainable industrialization and digital transformation.

4. For all these reasons, you, Dr. Muller, we consider as uniquely qualified to take on this responsibility at the helm of UNIDO at this time.

5. And, being uniquely qualified, we, the Member States, expect a lot from you!

5. But also be assured that you have our unstinted support in the task before you. Welcome on board, Dr Gerd Muller.

I thank you Mr President.

