

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

Vienna, 30 November 2021

Mr. President,

On behalf of WEOG Group, I wish to extend warm congratulations to Dr. Gerd Müller on his appointment as the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

Dr. Gerd Müller, you take over the leadership of this organisation at a critical juncture for UNIDO and the Global Development Agenda. Pressing global challenges threaten people's livelihoods and wellbeing, the environment, our economies and societies. These challenges have been seriously compounded by the COVID19 pandemic. Taking effective action is imperative, in order to address these challenges, tackle climate change and environmental degradation, poverty and increasing vulnerabilities and inequalities, and lead towards more sustainable economies and resilient societies, also through inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

WEOG m-s are confident that Director General Gerd Müller will exert his utmost efforts in leading UNIDO towards fulfilling its unique mandate in the development agenda worldwide. His skills and extensive experience, especially as Minister Cooperation and Development of a leading industrialized country, will enable him to maintain and further enhance channels of open dialogue, communication and cooperation between governments, international organisations as well as other stakeholders.

Director Müller, we stand ready to engage with you over the coming months and assure you of our full cooperation and support in your new role. We wish you every success and - again - extend our warm congratulations.

I thank you, Mr. President.