

 Permanent  
Mission  
of Austria

to the United  
Nations in Vienna

**AUSTRIA**  
**50<sup>th</sup> Industrial Development Board**  
**(21. - 23.11.2022)**  
**Agenda item 3: Annual report of the Director General for 2021**

**Ambassador Gabriela SELLNER**

Mr. President, I congratulate you and the other newly elected members of the bureau and would like to thank the last bureau for its valuable work, in particular Ambassador Dominika Krois of Poland and her colleagues, for their dedicated and successful work during last year's Industrial Board, their preparation with regard to the General Conference and their steady and sensible efforts to find an agreement on a contribution of the IDB to the High Level Political Forum of the ECOSOC this year.

We thank the Director General for his dynamic leadership of the organisation and his inspiring introductory statement.

Austria fully aligns herself with the statement of the European Union. In addition, we like to highlight the following issues in our national capacity:

Let me repeat that Austria continues to stand in full solidarity and support with Ukraine and the people of Ukraine. We refer in this context once more to the EU statement. We welcome the efforts of UNIDO to prepare its response in the context of the crisis in Ukraine caused by the armed conflict and its global impact, and have already informed UNIDO that we will support one of its project in Ukraine.

We are grateful that many of the projects supported by Austria are mentioned in the Annual Report of the Director General for 2021 and I would like to highlight some of them.

The project to enhance self-reliance in the Kurdistan region in Iraq is one of many examples, how the training on entrepreneurship can enhance the productive capacity and economic diversification to allow for a sustained stable living standard. In succession, Austria is planning to finance another project to improve digital skills especially for the younger generation in this region, to make them contribute to a modernization of the economic infrastructure and the basis for a prosperous future.

As it is mentioned in the report, in 2021, the Vienna Energy Forum took place virtually. It gathered more than 2,200 participants from over 140 countries. We will continue to support this important event for an interchange of the latest developments and knowledge, which will take place again in 2023. On this occasion, Austria would like to support the application of IIASA, one of the co-organizers of the Vienna Energy Forum, for consultative status with UNIDO. Let me highlight the good relations IIASA had in the past not only with UNIDO, but also with other UN-entities.

We welcome the Focus on energy efficiency and sustainable energy of UNIDO. As Austria supported already several Regional Centres for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, we are proud that we could recently confirm our contribution to the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Central Africa, which will complete the Global Network of Sustainable Energy Centres.

The accreditation to the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund shows clearly that UNIDO's commitment to more sustainable industries is well recognized and that its efforts for greening industrial procedures by, e.g., the application of circular economy principles in industrial procedures or the support to produce green hydrogen for hard to abate industries should be strengthened. As the global recovery of COVID-19 has been overshadowed by a new martial conflict, once again, we have to experience how vulnerable traditional supply chains have become, and it is more important than ever to make industries and economies more resilient.

President, Austria thanks Director General Müller for his new initiative to make progress by innovation. We are sure that UNIDO can make important contributions to the SDG Summit next year, especially take the lead on SDG 9, but also contribute to other SDGs, like SDG 7 and SDG 13. We hope that, in 2023, UNIDO can also prepare a major contribution to the preparation of the Summit of the Future, which will take place in 2024.

Let me assure you, that as a member state and as host country, Austria will continue to fully support the Director General and UNIDO in fulfilling its important mandate.

Mr. President, with these remarks, Austria takes note of the Report of the Director General for 2021.

Thank you!