



G-77 and China statement during the UNIDO Industrial Development Board, 50th session, 21-23 November 2022, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Permanent Representative of Morocco

Agenda item 8: Climate neutral industry and circular economy: (a) UNIDO activities related to circular economy

Mr. President,

1. The Group reaffirms the high importance of the potential benefits for countries to transform their economies to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, by engaging with partners to integrate circular economy and Industry 4.0 for more sustainable industrial activity and manufacturing systems, according to national plans and priorities.
2. The Group recognizes that a circular economy offers a promising and essential approach towards some of the most pressing global challenges and can accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and many of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5, while advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
3. The Group notes with satisfaction the efforts made by Member States to initiate or adopt policies, regulatory and legal frameworks incorporating elements of a circular economy, including national, subnational and regional strategies, roadmaps and actions plans on circular economy, as well as resource efficiency, product, chemical and waste management targets, laws and regulations.
4. The Group expresses its appreciation for the conduction of a first round of global consultations on Circular Economy from 10-12 May 2021 and for the previous regional preparatory meetings that took place from 13-20 November 2020.
5. The Group appreciates the efforts made by UNIDO, on organizing during September 2022, the regional preparatory meetings for the Member States, and requests the Director General to organize the Global consultations on circular economy in 2023 for experts from Member States and other relevant stake holders, with a view to facilitating exchanges on best practices, emerging innovations and the promotion and adoption of circular economy principles and practices by industries of Member States.
6. The Group is hopeful that the outcome of the global consultations will aim towards attaining an action plan, which will advance the work of UNIDO and its Member States on circular economy, thereby promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
7. The Group appreciates the co-organization at the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt on 9 November 2022 of the side event “Accelerating the global circular economy agenda to tackle climate change and foster economic transformation”, by UNIDO and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, during which the concept of circular economy was raised.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Agenda item 8 (b): UNIDO strategy in response to climate change

Mr. President,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the Director General's report on UNIDO's strategy in response to climate change, and expresses appreciation for the effort exerted by the Secretariat in drafting the strategy, in line with the General Conference resolution GC.19/Res.2.

2. The Group supports that the strategy shall be guided by the low-greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development principle, and enhances the efficiency, effectiveness and coordination of UNIDO's activities in the support of Member States climate priorities related to Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID).

Mr. President,

3. The Group highlights the importance of supporting the needs and priorities of developing countries in line with their right to development and reiterates that the transfer of climate related clean and innovative technologies from the developed to the developing countries is indispensable for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the commitments of the Climate Change Action Plan.

4. The Group recognizes that international cooperation plays a central role in developing national solutions that contributes to stabilization of the global climate system and encourages UNIDO to facilitate the establishment of global and regional alliances and partnerships to accelerate collective climate action, and expand markets for green industrial products.

5. Therefore, the Group believes that the strategy shall aim at enhancing UNIDO's role in arranging an adequate and predictable financing and transfer of clean and innovative technologies to the developing countries, providing a platform for investment mobilization and climate partnerships and fostering South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation to enable the transfer of climate related technologies and innovations that expedite the attainment of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) in the developing countries.

Mr. President,

6. The Group stresses the importance that the strategy and its action plan, without prejudice to the other UNIDO's core activities, shall:

- Enhance the existing portfolio of projects and programmes of UNIDO on the productive and sustainable management of resources;
- Strengthen activities in support of deploying sustainable technologies for electricity generation, primarily in agro industries;
- Reinforce efforts made by UNIDO's clean energy programmes, including the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers Programme and the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme;
- Maximize synergies with other priority areas of UNIDO, such as energy, agribusiness development and food security, circular economy and biodiversity;
- Boost the use of renewable energies, including green hydrogen, to achieve significant emissions reductions;
- Foster partnerships, cooperation and coordination with various stakeholders, including the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF);
- Increase the number of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPO) in the developing countries and expand their services for promotion of investment and transfer of technology.

Mr. President,

7. The Group appreciates UNIDO's role in fostering global understanding and raising awareness of the role of industry as a solution provider in achieving the goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement as well

as promoting the nexus between climate action and Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID).

8. The Group underscores the importance of climate justice and equitable distribution of resources to mitigate the effects of climate change and to ensure representation, inclusion, and protection of the rights of those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Developing countries have been disproportionately affected by climate change. Therefore, to alleviate the adverse effects and to enable such countries to face climate induced calamity, the available resources may be equitably distributed.

9. In this regard, the Group commends the Director General and his team for the efficient and effective engagement of UNIDO in preparation to COP 27, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from 6 to 18 November 2022, and acknowledges the successful participation of UNIDO during the Implementation Summit as well as the relevant Thematic Days of the conference, especially Decarbonisation Day and Energy Day.

10. The Group welcomes the announcement of the new Global Renewable Hydrogen Forum on 8th November 2022 during COP-27 and acknowledges UNIDO's designation as partner for the implementation of the Forum, in line with UNIDO's Global Programme for Green Hydrogen in Industry and UNIDO's vision for a Just transition. It is of prime significance that UNIDO continues its efforts to provide access to state of art technology to developing countries and make this Energy Transition a reality for all.

11. To this end, the Group requests the Secretariat to report to the Member States on the expected role of UNIDO in implementing the relevant outcomes and initiatives announced during COP27, and its reflection on the action plan of the strategy, aiming at the attainment of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) in the developing countries.

12. With these remarks, the Group requests the Secretariat to continue consultations with Member States on UNIDO's strategy in response to Climate Change, as well as its action plan before the next session of the IDB.

Thank you, Mr. President.