

Statement by the
Delegation of the Republic of Armenia at the 50th session of the
UNIDO's Industrial Development Fund

Agenda item 8: Climate neutral industry and circular economy

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time that our delegation takes the floor during this session, we would like to start by congratulating you upon your election as the President of the 50th session of the IDB as well as other newly elected officers of the Bureau and assure you of this delegation's full support.

We would like to also thank the outgoing President Dominica Krois of Poland and the Bureau for their outstanding work.

Mr. President,

Armenia welcomes the efforts of UNIDO aimed at promoting circular economy and, in this context, we took note of the Report by the Director General on UNIDO activities related to circular economy contained in document IDB.50/15 and of the Update on the consultations on circular economy provided by the Secretariat and contained in the document IDB.50/CRP.6.

We took note of the opening remarks by Director General Gerd Müller and appreciate UNIDO's efforts aimed at mitigating climate change and promoting decarbonization. We welcome the participation of UNIDO in the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, and organization of a number of side events, such as on green hydrogen and circular economy, as well as the launch of the Global Renewable Hydrogen Forum.

We also would like to thank the Director General for organizing the special event on Industrial Policy for Energy Transition, which was a good opportunity to discuss the on-going transformation in global and national energy systems and market as possible solution enabling the achievement of sustainable development goals and Paris agreement targets.

Mr. President,

Transition towards circularity and more effective management of resources through innovative practices and sustainable consumption and production patterns is among priorities of the Armenian government. The transition to a green and circular economy facilitated through resource efficient and cleaner production practices is identified as an output objective of the Country Programme (CP) for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Armenia 2022-2026, which the Government of Armenia and UNIDO

signed in November 2021. We believe that timely and efficient implementation of the CP will assist Armenia's government in its efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

We welcome the holding of regional preparatory meetings on circular economy in September this year and we look forward to another round of global consultations. Armenia attaches great importance to these consultations as a suitable framework for highlighting the existing challenges, for sharing the experience and exchanging the best practices in this field, but also for seeking solutions, in particular, how to ensure sustainable access for developing countries to necessary finances and technologies.

By saying this, we, at the same time, believe that a more target-oriented assistance through trainings and awareness raising events tailored to the specific needs of individual countries is a more efficient way to facilitate the transition towards circularity. Such efforts should be inclusive with participation of all relevant stakeholders.

Mr. President,

Armenia was among the countries that co-sponsored the resolution on Development of a UNIDO Strategy in Response to Climate Change adopted by the 19th session of the General Conference (GC.19/Res.2) in recognition of the role and contribution that such a strategy would have in support of activities of member states aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting climate neutral industries.

We took note of the report by the Director General on UNIDO Strategy in response to climate change contained in document IDB.50/16 and of the UNIDO Climate Change Strategy contained in the annex to the mentioned document. We call on UNIDO to continue consultations with Member States in a follow-up to the two development dialogues convened by the Secretariat, including over the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy.

We would like to also thank the delegation of Egypt for tabling the relevant draft decision.

Mr. President,

Armenia appreciates UNIDO's efforts in fostering global clean energy cooperation and promoting industry-related energy and resource efficiency. We welcome the UNIDO Global Programme for Green Hydrogen in Industry as a suitable framework for assisting developing countries in further exploring perspectives of using green hydrogen as clean energy source for industry.

At the same time, and this was highlighted by the Director General as well in his opening statement, the challenge for developing countries lies in the accessibility of the relevant technologies. We consider UNIDO to be well-placed to bridge this gap and we call on Director General and the Secretariat to pay a special attention to this issue.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we would like to reiterate Armenia's readiness to constructively engage with UNIDO and other partners and stakeholders in order to promote circular economy and to achieve climate neutrality in industries for attainment of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Thank you.