



**Malta Statement at the 50th Session of UNIDO
Industrial Development Board**

Agenda item 3

21-23 November 2022

Further to the statement delivered by the European Union to which Malta fully aligns with, I would like to make the following comments in my national capacity.

Mr President,

At the outset, let me express my sincere congratulations to you on your nomination as President of the IDB and assure you of the full support of my delegation. Likewise, I would like to thank the outgoing IDB President, H.E. Dominika Krois, and the Secretariat for their excellent work and preparations.

I would also like to express gratitude to DG Gerd Müller for the presentation of the 2021 annual report and commend him for the work done in the course of the past year, inspired by the motto "Progress by innovation". We augur him and the whole organization, success in the endeavour to improve the performance of UNIDO and to render it more relevant and fit for the future.

Mr President,

Malta is deeply concerned by the prevailing global crises that are seriously hampering sustainable development. Regrettably, the situation cannot improve while the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine is ongoing. The war has not only created immense suffering for Ukraine and its people, but also continues to intensify the food and energy crisis worldwide. This war has also caused serious socio-economic disruptions,

particularly in the African continent, impacting negatively the industrialisation development.

Malta unequivocally condemns the blatant violations of international law and urges the Russian Federation to fully respect the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders by withdrawing all its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine.

Mr President,

Malta fully supports UNIDO in its important role in achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 and looks forward to the review that will be discussed at the SDG Summit in September 2023. We welcome UNIDO's participation at the COP27 in Egypt and fully agree with UNIDO's message that implementation of the Paris Agreement will only be possible through the sustainable transformation of industry.

Last October, Malta participated in the regional conference "Reinforcing partnerships for development cooperation in the European region" aimed at seeking avenues together with UNIDO and 8 other EU Member States on how to strengthen cooperation amidst emerging challenges and opportunities in the global development landscape. Participants identified several key thematic priorities for strengthened cooperation, including green industry, digital transformation, as well as SME competitiveness and job creation.

We reiterate our commitment to UNIDO's technical cooperation projects and programmes that match our partners' priorities in areas where UNIDO has established expertise and can provide added value. We commend UNIDO's role in supporting environmentally sustainable industries and we welcome UNIDO's initiative on circular economy. We encourage the Organization to focus clearly on job creation and scale up technical cooperation in Least Developed Countries and in countries facing instability.

For Malta, gender equality is considered an essential aspect of our sustainable industrial development, and of our economic growth. Malta is determined to continue increasing the participation of women and enhance their valuable contribution to the economy through highly qualified jobs. In this regard Malta continues to be an advocate for gender balance at UNIDO, especially at senior management level. Progress by innovation can only succeed if women are empowered to play a full, equal and meaningful role in this process.

Mr President,

Malta welcomes the Guided Trade Initiative launched by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) last October. Countries ready to do so, are to start trading under the provisions of the agreement. We commend the 8 countries (Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Tanzania and Tunisia) for making the required implementation changes in their customs and regulations necessary to begin trading. The AfCFTA Secretariat merits all praise for its coordinating action, and we hope that this initiative will be successful.

As our economies readjust to the present challenges, it is important for UNIDO to observe and support these developments on our neighbouring continent to ensure that African growth translates into better livelihoods for its people through improved quality jobs, better governance and more sustainable economies that will help them chart their future.

Finally, we would like to express our support for the number of resolutions and decisions presented to this IDB that are important for the Organization to carry out its various mandates and to address the challenges posed, including by the present pandemic.

Thank you, Mr President