



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

**Statement of Mr. Gerd Müller
Director General**

**at the closing of the
The fiftieth session of the
Industrial Development Board
Vienna, 21–23 November 2022**

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates,

I started my opening remarks on Monday with some good news.

It seems that the positive spirit has carried through the whole IDB. We had good deliberations over these three days.

I am very happy to note the successful conclusion of this Fiftieth IDB.

Throughout its history, UNIDO has faced many challenges, seen major changes and has always been able to adapt.

I first of all would like to thank again **Ambassador Krois** as former IDB President for her outstanding work.

And I thank the new President, **Ambassador Solano Ortiz**, as well as the elected officers for their perfect leadership.

You have brought this IDB to a successful completion and I thank you for your personal commitment and professionalism.

I was glad to hear that the **UNIDO Climate Strategy** was discussed. The Strategy sets a 2050 vision for UNIDO climate action, and outlines concrete areas of work.

At the COP27, I heard the huge expectations, especially from developing countries.

We ensure that the voice of the poorest countries is heard, those that are hardest hit by the multiples crises.

We also discussed UNIDO's strategy for **middle-income countries**.

We need to be a strong partner for these countries, support transfer of know-how, technologies and investments.

We are already starting preparations for next year's important events such as the **SDG Summit** in September.

SDG 9 - UNIDO's work - will be in the focus!

I also noted your discussion of UNIDO's new **strategy for the LDCs** for the next decade.

The concerns of the Least Developed Countries are at the heart of our work.

I will also take this message to the **LDC5 Conference** in Doha next March.

You are right, we need commitments from our partners, including the private sector, how to implement the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs!

Tomorrow, I will travel to Niger to attend **the African Union Summit** on Africa's Industrialization and Economic Diversification.

We need to speed up the implementation of the **Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA3)**.

We need to move from strategies and roadmaps to concrete implementation!

I am grateful about the many expressions of support for the reform process I have initiated. I thank you for this support!

Ladies and gentlemen

Dear delegates,

Finally, allow me to express my appreciation and thanks to **key colleagues** who have made these IDB sessions possible.

I again thank former President **Ambassador Krois** and newly elected President Ambassador Solano Ortiz for their excellent work.

My thanks also to the **PMO colleagues** who ensure the IDB secretariat's functioning.

First, **Mr. Kai Bethke** for all his efforts over five years in organizing previous IDB sessions. He is now in charge of our important Division of Member States and Funding Relations. Thank you so much for your great work!

The new director of PMO, **Ms Aurelia Calabro**, has done an excellent job. She heads our Regional Office in Ethiopia and also managed the IDB preparations and proceedings. For this service, I thank you very much.

I also wish to thank the wider team, the consultants and interns and interpreters who have worked tirelessly.

I would like all of you to come here to the front so that we can see you and thank you.

There is still one last special thank you I would like to convey as we are also saying farewell to one dear colleague.

This is the last IDB for **Annemarie Heuls**, our G-77 Liaison Officer, who will be retiring at the end of this year.

She started her career at the age of 23 in 1983.

In 1998, Annemarie started to dedicate herself to the G-77 in Vienna.

With her sociability, and her knowledge of English, French, German and Spanish, she soon became popular with delegates from all regions.

For over 22 years she supported G-77 delegations.

Her support is appreciated here by the Group and beyond.

I therefore think that I speak for most of you, when I say *Thank you Annemarie*.

Annemarie, you have made your mark here. We are sad to see you leave but wish you all the best for the happy years with your family ahead.

I now look forward to working with your successor, Ms. Crosby Plaza from Venezuela!

With this, ladies and gentlemen, thank you all again for your active participation!

Thank you so much.
