

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY !**

Statement by  
**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the  
International Organizations in Vienna, Ambassador Barbara Žvokelj**  
at the 51st session of the Industrial Development Board  
of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
on item 3: **Annual Report of the Director General for 2022**

Vienna, 3 July 2023

*Thank you Mr. President and good morning to everyone,*

At the outset let me congratulate you on your election as President of this IDB session. I assure you of Slovenia's full cooperation. In addition to the Statement delivered by the EU, I would like to deliver some remarks in my national capacity.

Slovenia enjoys a long-standing, mutually reinforcing partnership with UNIDO. The Roadmap for Cooperation signed last year in June in Vienna clearly demonstrates this. Furthermore, an Agreement on Cooperation signed during the Director General's first official visit in Ljubljana last March, additionally strengthens our cooperation. It will lead to the implementation of new joint initiatives, which will benefit developing countries and contribute to the inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

As a regular donor to UNIDO's technical cooperation projects, we were pleased to read about the increase of the implementation of technical projects by 17 per cent in 2022, especially since it also relates to the area of climate and environmental protection. Climate change is one of our top foreign policy priorities. We therefore particularly value UNIDO's assistance to Member States in fulfilling their climate change commitments and in creating climate-neutral and circular economies.

My country sees UNIDO as an important partner in implementing our international development cooperation. It is an exceptional platform for knowledge and technology transfer, innovation building and investment promotion. We therefore pay considerable attention to Organization's development in programmatic, but also in financial terms.

In this connection, we were pleased that the Member States could agree on a solid budget at the Programme and Budget Committee Session in May.

We would also like to commend the Director General for his efforts in implementing a progressive organizational reform in 2022, aimed at creating a more effective and efficient organization. Providing additional opportunities to upskill and reskill the workforce under the new Learning and Development Services is definitely one of the most important elements of this process. In this connection, we would also wish to see more efforts directed into achieving gender parity at the professional level of UNIDO's staff, including at the middle and senior management level. At the same time, it is commendable that in 2022, 41 per cent of UNIDO projects were assessed to have significantly contributed to gender equality and the empowerment of women. Based on Slovenia's New Guidelines for Gender Equality in International Cooperation we have committed that by 2030 Slovenia will include gender equality in 85% of development projects and thus also contribute to UNIDO's even better result in this area. I am also happy to inform that Slovenia is one of founding members of the UNIDO Group of Friends for gender equality and empowerment of women.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Director General for his Annual Report for 2022, which clearly demonstrates the value of our Organization's work.

*Thank you.*