

Statement by the Government of Sweden

Agenda item 3: Annual Report of the Director General
51th session of the Industrial Development Board (IDB)
United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
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Mr/s. President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

First, let me congratulate you on your election Mr President. Sweden looks forward to a constructive cooperation throughout your tenure. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing President, Ambassador Solano-Ortiz of Costa Rica, and the other bureau members for their important efforts.

Mr/s President,

Sweden fully aligns with the statement made by the European Union. In addition, we want to add the following in our national capacity.

First, UNIDO's work, and mandate cannot be seen in isolation from the war of aggression perpetrated by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, with devastating consequences, including to the global food crisis. The illegal war of aggression by the Russian Federation is a flagrant violation of the UN charter and international law. Like many others, we strongly condemn Russia's actions.

Mr/s President,

We thank the Director General of UNIDO Dr. Gerd Müller for presenting the annual report. The priorities laid out by the Director General, including contributing to a green transition, addressing food security, energy efficiency and improving access to fossil free energy, are important areas where UNIDO's expertise and experience brings an added value. UNIDO's work is also a critical contribution to the achievement of Agenda 2030, to be showcased at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York later this month.

We note the decision by the Programme and Budget Committee to increase the funds to UNIDO to enable the organisation to cope with the high inflation costs. This decision ensures that UNIDO has sufficient funds to deliver on its mandate, while at the same time respecting member states financial constraints.

Sweden will continue to follow closely the implementation of the UNIDO reforms, including to the field structure. Reforms must facilitate and lay the ground for establishing links and collaboration across the UN-system, increase cost effectiveness and focus on results. Oversight Advisory Committee (OAC) and the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight (EIO) play an indispensable role in ensuring accountability and ensuring efficiency of UNIDO's programmes. It will be important to ensure predictable funding for these functions.

Gender mainstreaming is a priority for Sweden. Important progress has been made in UNIDO in this regard. However, more needs to be done, including achieving gender parity at all levels.

Mr/s President,

The adoption of the climate strategy is a vital and welcomed next step to ensure that UNIDO can contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. We commend UNIDO's strong engagement for the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Abu Dhabi.

Finally, I would like to reiterate Sweden's support to UNIDO and its Director General Gerd Müller. We look forward to continuing our partnership towards achieving the Agenda 2030.

I thank you for your attention.