

Statement by the Italian Permanent Representative
Ambassador Alessandro Cortese
51th Session of UNIDO Industrial Development Board
3rd – 6th July 2023

Thank you, Mister Chairman.

At the outset, I wish to join the DG and previous speakers in congratulating you, Mister Chairman, on your election and I wish you all success in guiding the 51st session of the Industrial Development Board. You will have full support and cooperation from Italy at this 51st IDB.

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of the European Union. In my national capacity, I wish to add some considerations.

First, I wish to express my appreciation to Director General Dr. Gerd Mueller for his introductory statement and his commitment to reform the Organization. Italy appreciates the efforts made to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of UNIDO's internal structure and procedures, redefining its main priorities with a cost-effective and result-oriented approach. The process is still in progress and I am sure that it will lead to a more effective and efficient use of financial and human resources, allowing UNIDO to deliver more and better.

Mr Chairman,

As one of the main financial donors and active members of UNIDO, Italy is fully committed in supporting the Organization, recognizing the relevance of its mission to assist developing countries and medium-income countries together with industrialized donors. Needless to say that to the benefit of all its Member States, UNIDO should be endowed with appropriate resources. In this regard, Italy strongly appreciates the collaborative spirit shown by the Membership in achieving consensus on the UNIDO's budget for the next biennium, as the fundamental basis to successfully pursue its strategy, with the aim of promoting sustainable industrial development, inclusive growth and the creation of decent jobs.

Furthermore, Italy welcomes all initiatives aimed at enlarging UNIDO membership, as an essential step to strengthen its structure on the field and further promote its mandate at international level. Therefore, we support cooperation and synergies between UNIDO Member and non-Member States, as well as with other international bodies, in order to create further opportunities of financing, to reinforce global interactions and to foster the exchange of information and best practices, contributing to the full accomplishment of the Organization's goals.

In its partnership with UNIDO, Italy has been promoting the so-called "Sistema Italia", a unique cooperation model based on the experience of industrial districts, enterprise networks, SMEs, partnership between public and private sectors, and which contribute to the dissemination of the Italian peculiar way of "doing business".

Mr Chairman,

Triangular cooperation between UNIDO and Italian public and private sectors is for us of primary interest. In recent years, we have managed to build fruitful relations between UNIDO and some Italian entrepreneurial realities. The one with Illy coffee brand is well known, for the projects implemented for the coffee chain in Ethiopia and Mozambique. Recently, this partnership has been strengthened with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNIDO and the “Regenerative Society Foundation”, a non-profit organization founded by Illy and supported by many Italian companies, from different productive sectors. This recent collaboration will open new opportunities to develop projects in the field of process innovation and sustainable production technologies, not only in the agri-business.

I also want to mention the recently reinforced cooperation between UNIDO and ENI, one of the leading European energy companies. ENI has invested 20 million euros for the construction of a training centre on renewable energies in Congo Brazzaville, inaugurated two months ago and now fully operational. ENI is also developing important initiatives with UNIDO on energy transition, including in the field of green hydrogen.

Building upon those experiences, a new initiative is underway: a new public-private partnership for promoting circular economy and climate resilience in the coffee sector, by another of the Italian companies in the coffee industry.

Our financial and technical support to UNIDO remains highly significant and progresses further through the years. Let me mention, as a final example, an initiative we have recently undertaken: only a week ago, we signed with the Government of Egypt the agreement for a second phase of the project "Inclusive green growth in the cotton sector"; an ample range of activities, regarding the whole cotton supply chain, to foster both sustainability and profitability of such production.

These examples show the peculiar Italian approach to UNIDO: the attention to innovation and entrepreneurship; the focus on sustainability, income generation through new jobs and the quality of products, having gender equality and women empowerment as a horizontal principle.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.