President Elnour,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

- I congratulate you, President Elnour, on your election and thank you for your important words here.
- I remember my own election in this hall, 18 months ago.
- So, I am very pleased to welcome you all.
- Recently however I was shocked on watching the news:
  - Montevideo, Uruguay: the city is having an acute water shortage, in the worst drought in 115 years.
  - Vietnam and much of Southeast Asia, large parts of Latin America. The Sahara region, the horn of Africa.
  - The impacts of climate change affect all continents, not just Africa. There, however, the situation is particularly difficult.
  - Climate change is currently the greatest challenge facing the planet.
  - Both drought and flood disasters, as in Pakistan in recent years, destroy the livelihoods of millions of people.
  - Hunger, hardship and unemployment threaten many countries.
  - The global community must find effective answers to the multiple crises of our time.
  - UNIDO must, can and will contribute to the solutions.
• Tomorrow we will be adopting our climate strategy.

• UNIDO works with the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund and many more international partners to implement climate action projects in your countries.

• We are strengthening the resilience of rural regions with adapted production methods in agriculture.

• We work on new irrigation methods, new agro-solar projects and much more.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

• There is another crisis which has not yet ended,

• I keep stressing it: the effects of the pandemic are not past and the consequences are dramatic:

• Millions of people have lost their lives and over 200 million their jobs.

• LDCs in particular urgently need more solidarity and support.

• In recent months, they have been working with experts to develop new regional strategies for development in the countries of Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

• We will discuss and adopt these strategies at the General Conference here in Vienna in December.

• At the UN Assembly and SDG Summit in New York, these issues need to be central to the discussion and decisions taken.

• This also includes formulating a Vision 2030 of a future sustainable industrialization policy.

• We need to offer answers to the key questions: How do we create access to electricity and sustainable energy for all?
• How is it possible to decouple necessary economic growth from CO2 emissions?

• UNIDO is focusing on the implementation of renewable energies and the use of green hydrogen worldwide.

• The development and use of hydrogen economies must first and foremost bring value creation and growth to the Global South.

• Green hydrogen from and for the developing countries is the goal. UNIDO has developed a successful global hydrogen initiative for this purpose.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

• What’s more: The population of developing countries is continually increasing.

• Thus there must also be an answer to the question of how we can create a world without hunger.

• Investments in infrastructure, innovation and industrialization of food systems are necessary.

• Investing in rural regions and increasing productivity in agriculture with new technologies is possible already today – a world without hunger is possible!

• The same is true for improved health care structures, the expansion of education systems - using of the possibilities of digitalization and artificial intelligence.

• Progress, growth, new jobs, better future opportunities for youth, women and families - these are our common goals.

• Sustainable energy, higher productivity in agriculture, and local added value.

• Fair trade system and processing industries.
• For all of this - UNIDO has access to cutting-edge technologies, and the collected knowledge and interested investors from around the world.

• In creating a Vision of UNIDO 2030, I see new focus areas for our future work:

  • Firstly, we will further expand cooperation with the private sector: this is particularly necessary and promising in: food production and processing; in the renewable energy and green hydrogen sectors; in the pharmaceutical industry as well as in the mining sector - to name just a few growth areas.

  • Of course, such expansion can only be done step by step.

  • Secondly, we will specifically analyze and strengthen project cooperation with our main donors.

  • I thank all donor countries, and I particularly would like to highlight four smaller countries today: Switzerland, Sweden, Norway and Finland.

  • Alongside the largest Member State donors, these are among the top ten donor countries with strong support for UNIDO. Thank you!

  • Here I would also name our very important institutional partners such as the GEF, the Adaptation Fund, the Montreal Protocol, the Green Climate Fund and the European Union.

  • There is much new potential with our shared priorities.

  • Thirdly, cooperation with the World Bank and multilateral development banks from China, Asia, Europe and the USA can and must be stepped up.

  • Fourthly, we must build on our opportunities for dialogue and exchange with universities, research institutes and philanthropists worldwide.

  • And finally: In the future, up to 70% of people will live in cities.

  • Project partnerships with municipalities in the field of green cities and modern infrastructure are increasingly important.
Ladies and gentlemen,

- With our reorganization and the 2024-25 budget, we have created a strong basis for our future work.
- We can begin to do “more with more”.
- I am very, very grateful to you for this.
- In 2022 we were able to mobilize 17% more funds for Technical Cooperation. In the next biennium we are on the way for a 25% increase.
- The modernization of our work is now well underway and is proceeding throughout the organization.
- What is key: Our project portfolio should be organized more efficiently, thinking big instead of being small-scale and fragmented.
- That means UNIDO should concentrate on implementing flagship and lighthouse initiatives.
- For example: with Agro-Industrial Parks combined with Energy and Vocational Training Centres – contributing to a world without hunger.
- To reflect the Vision I outlined, I am now setting up a commission on "Sustainable Development 2030" to develop a five-year plan for UNIDO.
- We need new strategies, new courage and new initiatives.
- Success is based on cooperation and teamwork. I thank you all for the great degree of trust and support.
- I also thank the entire UNIDO team: all the staff, consultants and our leadership team.
- We work together successfully and I am very grateful for that. UNIDO is YOUR industrial development agency. You set the pace and the direction.
Excellencies,

- As Director General, I am the driver for implementation, Progress by Innovation is our motto.

- My request to you, the Member States, and especially to the main donors is:

- Use UNIDO’s expertise and global network even more than before for larger projects.

- The voluntary contributions should continue to increase.

- We are currently implementing many small projects and again, I believe we should move on to more larger project approaches.

- Good examples are:

  - The new 65 million pound facility with the UK on innovative clean energy technologies for climate neutrality in industry in developing countries.

  - The partnership with the European Union and the African Union together with the ITC worth €200 million to support the AU with African Free Trade Zone implementation.

  - The new Ukraine reconstruction project could become a model of future cooperation between several member states.

  - I have appointed a new responsible coordinator and formed new initiatives here at headquarters for this.

  - The new UNIDO Innovation and Transformation Fund also offers novel opportunities.

  - Next: we can significantly strengthen our field structure with the new 2024 budget. We are filling vacant positions now and setting new priorities from 2024.

So, Ladies and Gentlemen, looking forward:
• UN Secretary General Guterres has called for an SDG Stimulus.

• We are at the midway point to 2030 and the SDGs.

• We can indeed achieve the SDGs, but only if investment channeled to these commitments is increased by at least 2% of global GDP.

• At COP28, industrialized countries must deliver on the $100 billion pledge for climate action and move ahead with the agreed Loss and Damage Fund to finance climate adaptation measures.

• There must be debt relief for the LDCs.

• Only with global solidarity can the great challenges be solved.

Excellencies,

• As your work here at the fifty first IDB begins, let me thank you all for your support, cooperation and dedication.

• Your discussions here will focus on budgetary proposals - I also ask for flexibility - as well as UNIDO's Strategy for Climate Change.

• I am grateful particularly to the co-chairs of the informal working group, Mr. Singh from India and Mr. Czubek from Poland.

• And I specially thank the outgoing President of the Board, H.E Alejandro Edmundo Solano Ortíz from Costa Rica for his exceptional engagement over the past year.

• I also again congratulate the newly elected President of the Board, H.E. Magdi Ahmed Mofadal Elnour of Sudan.

• I look forward to a successful IDB meeting

    Thank you so much