



UNIDO: 51st Session of the Industrial Development Board

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Deborah M. Borg, Deputy Head of Mission of Malta to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Vienna, 3 July 2023

Agenda Item 3: Annual report of the Director General for 2022

Mr President,

At the outset I wish to congratulate you and the rest of the Bureau on your election. While I assure you of our delegation's full support and cooperation, I would also like to thank Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz for his excellent stewardship throughout the past year.

Malta fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would also like to make some remarks in our national capacity, starting by recalling that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which we strongly condemn, has had significant consequences while also putting global food security at risk. We strongly reiterate that food supplies should never be used as a weapon of war.

Mr President,

Malta welcomes the report of Director General Müller and his active role in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development. We highly commend UNIDO for its agribusiness promotion and its activities in areas such as the environment and energy sectors, promoting clear objectives in the reduction of carbon emissions, waste and pollution.

Malta also welcomes the agreement reached on the programme and budget 2024-2025 at the last PBC, which will allow the achievement of important priorities. This considerable increase is a sign of strong support for the further modernization of the Organisation, including the reform of the UNIDO field structure. It also paves the way for increased delivery of technical cooperation.

Africa is a vital strategic partner for the future, and it has enormous potential for sustainable industrialization and the socio-economic benefits it brings. We are confident that UNIDO is best placed to foster the relevant partnerships, coordinate with other relevant UN entities and organise joint initiatives in favour of industrialization through the IDDA 3 programme until 2025. Significant benefits can be reaped from further technology transfer, capacity building and training in innovative skills in areas including productive diversification, agribusiness value chain development, trade, energy and climate.

In its Malta and Africa Strategy for Partnership 2020-2025, Malta emphasizes that stronger partnerships play an important role towards contributing to the successful attainment of the SDGs. It is through cooperation and economic exchange that we can see our societies grow and economies thrive.

In this regard, Malta welcomes the latest AfCFTA partnership with one of the leading continental banks, United Bank for Africa (UBA) providing much-needed funding to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in four crucial sectors: Agro-processing, Automotive, Pharmaceuticals, and Transport and Logistics. SMEs play a critical role in Africa's economy – driving innovation, thus creating employment, and contributing to GDP growth.

Mr President,

There will indeed be no progress in these areas, if we do not address the cross-cutting issue of gender equality, which we welcome as a clear strategic priority for UNIDO. Having equal opportunities is not enough to help us reach our aim.



Our equality goals will be best achieved by applying the equity approach. Equipping women and girls, but also men and boys with the knowledge, values, attitudes and skills to tackle gender disparities is a precondition to building a sustainable future for all.

In this regard Malta regrets that the successes and gains registered in UNIDO's project in Herat, Afghanistan, are now at risk due to new restrictions imposed on women's participation in the academic and economic sectors by the Taliban. We reiterate our support for such projects and wish to underline the existing plight of women and girls. In our work, we have vowed not to leave anyone behind. Women and girls in Afghanistan deserve our attention.

In conclusion, Malta is pleased to see this Organisation gaining momentum in its drive for 'progress by innovation' for an effective, comprehensive, and sustainable implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you, Mr President!