



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