Permanent Mission of Austria

> to the United Nations in Vienna

AUSTRIA 51st Industrial Development Board (3 – 6 July 2023) Agenda item 3: Annual report of the Director General for 2022

Serial territorial report of the Energy Constant of

Mr. Johann SPITZER, Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Permanent Mission of Austria

Thank you, Chair, Excellencies – Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, let me congratulate you and the other newly elected members of the bureau. I also would like to express Austria's gratitude to the last bureau for its valuable work, in particular to Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortíz of Costa Rica and his colleagues for their restless efforts during the often difficult negotiations.

Austria fully aligns herself with the statement of the European Union. In addition, we would like to highlight the following issues in our national capacity:

Let me repeat that Austria continues to stand in full solidarity and support with Ukraine and the people of Ukraine. We refer in this context once more to the EU statement and welcome UNIDO's immediate action for Ukraine and the organization's plans to contribute to the reconstruction. In this UNIDO framework, Austria is proud to support the creation of small and medium sized enterprises as well as the economic empowerment of women and youth in Western Ukraine for inclusive and sustainable recovery.

Austria thanks the Director General for his announcement to promote the implementation of the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

We noted the reporting to the High-Level Political Forum 2022 and the side event held together with several countries, inter alia with Austria. As this year's High-Level Political Forum will have a review of SDG 9 and be a prelude to the SDG summit, we hope that UNIDO as custodian of SDG 9 will be well represented in both events and its outcome.

In this regard, Austria welcomes the consensus on UNIDO's strategy in response to climate change and supports the respective draft decision on agenda item 10 (b).

Especially Green hydrogen can be the key to decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors such as steel production, the chemical industry, heavy shipping and aviation. We therefore welcome the partnership of UNIDO with the Global Renewable Hydrogen Forum, which has been launched last year at COP 27 by Egypt and Belgium, and hope that this and other cooperation will be inspiring for former member states to re-join UNIDO.

Gender mainstreaming should be a principle for all UNIDO projects and therefore, funding from the regular budget for the Unit for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women would be important.

Stable financing of the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight (EIO) and the Oversight Advisory Committee (OAC) must also be provided in order to guarantee their operational independence. Therefore, Austria supports the draft decision on evaluation and internal oversight activities as presented on agenda item 14.

Finally, I would like to announce this year's International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum, which will be organised by UNIDO in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria, the Austrian Development Agency and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis. Taking place on 2nd and 3rd November 2023 at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna, it will bring together high-level

representatives from member states, international organisations, business and science as well as more than 1000 international experts to present and discuss solutions and best practice projects to tackle the climate crisis and achieve green energy transition. We hope that the Forum's result will be a basis for fruitful discussions at COP 28.

Chair, with these remarks, Austria takes note of the Report of the Director General for 2022.

As a member state and as the organization's host country, Austria will continue to fully support the Director General and UNIDO in fulfilling its important mandate.

Thank you!