



**European Union**

**EU Statement on**

**Agenda item 10: Climate neutral industry and circular economy**

**51st session of the**

**Industrial Development Board (IDB)**

**United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)**

**Vienna, 3-6 July 2023**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The following countries align with this statement: North Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\*, Albania\*, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, Norway\* and Armenia.

Mr. President,

Climate change is the defining crisis of our time. A challenge of that magnitude requires global solutions that can only be achieved through international cooperation and a strong multilateral approach. On 15 June, the UN Secretary General called for immediate global action toward net-zero emissions, which must start with “the polluted heart of the climate crisis: the fossil fuel industry”. He also called for detailed plans to accelerate the necessary transition to “green” energy that includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout the value chains - from production to refining, distribution, use and ultimately, waste management.

UNIDO has a role to play in facilitating the green industrial transition in its Member States. We trust that its activities in the field of environment and energy as well as its programmes on green hydrogen, circular economy, just energy transition and industrial decarbonisation, can help transform industries from a major polluter to a leading provider of innovative climate solutions. We encourage UNIDO to contribute to the Climate Ambition Summit along these lines.

The European Union is leading by example. We are committed to reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 % by 2030 and being the first major economy to commit to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Both targets are enshrined in the EU Climate Law and are legally binding. Moreover, recent surveys have shown

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\* Candidate Countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

\* Norway is a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

that young Europeans overwhelmingly take climate conscious decisions on a daily basis and demand more sustainable policies at national and regional level.

Furthermore, the EU and its Member States are the world's leading contributor of development assistance and the world's biggest public climate finance contributor, providing at least a third of the world's public climate finance. The European Investment Bank, one of the world's largest multilateral development banks, plays a key role in these efforts. We are determined to continue working with partners to swiftly implement the Climate Finance Delivery Plan: Meeting the US\$100 billion Goal. We call upon other donors to also increase their climate finance contributions and deliver on their commitments. The EU looks forward to cooperating with interested parties to respond to the call for action, placing a specific focus on the most vulnerable populations, particularly in the Least Developed Countries, and Small Island Developing States.

Mr. President,

From the outset, we supported the idea to have a dedicated Climate Change Strategy for UNIDO and tabled a Resolution at the 19<sup>th</sup> General Conference to this end, which was co-sponsored by 11 states from all regional groups. We appreciate the work by Egypt as a facilitator of the follow up negotiations and look forward to also agreeing on an Action Plan to operationalise the Strategy.

Finally, we recall the Global Consultations on circular economy which were co-chaired by Austria and Costa Rica in 2021. We stand ready to discuss with the Secretariat and UNIDO Member States on how we could bring this process forward and address the needs of the developing States in particular. The EU has launched the 'Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency', with the support of UNIDO and UNEP. We look forward to working with everyone to expand this initiative which now has 15 members. A global just transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient and circular economy would represent an important contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

I thank you for your attention.