

Finland's statement at UNIDO Industrial Development Board

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Agenda item 3

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you on your election. Finland assures its full support to your work.

I would also like to recognize the outgoing President and bureau for their excellent service.

The Secretariat deserves our appreciation for successfully organizing this important event.

I would also like to thank UNIDO Director General, Dr. Gerd Müller, for his report. Finland looks forward to cooperating with UNIDO under your leadership.

Distinguished delegates,

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union, including in condemning in the strongest possible terms the unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, with the involvement of Belarus.

Let me share a few remarks in our national capacity.

Finland recognizes the vital role of UNIDO in meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals by promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

It is important to ensure that the Secretariat has sufficient means and resources to carry out its mandate.

The outcome achieved by the Programme and Budget Committee represents a good balance in this regard. It ensures sufficient resources for the Secretariat to deliver its mandate.

It also recognizes that Member States, dealing with rising inflation and challenging economic circumstances, face increasingly tight budgets.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to highlight priorities for Finland in UNIDO's work.

Finland has consistently encouraged UNIDO to do more to promote gender equality and women's economic empowerment both within the organization as well as in its technical cooperation activities.

I am pleased that UNIDO has taken great strides forward in promoting gender equality, particularly in its technical assistance work.

A significant milestone is the launch last week of the Group of Friends for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in UNIDO. The group creates an important platform for information exchange, discussion and coordination that brings interested parties together.

I was especially honoured to co-chair the first meeting of this important initiative, together with my dear colleague H.E. Elena Maria Freije Murillo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Honduras. I wish to see many of you joining the group in order to strengthen its aims and our joint efforts.

At the same time, more could be done to ensure sufficient and predictable funding from UNIDO's regular budget for the activities of the Gender Unit. This would guarantee successful execution of this core function within the Organization. We are also looking forward to the re-opening of the position of Gender Coordinator currently placed in the reserve.

Another issue related to inclusive industrial development are the rights of persons with disabilities. This is an area where there are opportunities for UNIDO to do more.

Distinguished delegates,

We are pleased with the strong focus of UNIDO on circular economy. Circular economy is key in tackling global challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss.

Initiatives such as Switch to Circular Economy Value Chains are important in creating a transition to a more sustainable use of scarce resources. Finland, together with the EU, is funding this important UNIDO initiative.

Finland hosted the World Circular Economy Forum in Helsinki from the 30th of May to the 2nd of June. The Switch initiative was prominently showcased at the Forum. I would like to thank the UNIDO team for successfully organizing the Switch consultative forum in Helsinki.

Colleagues,

UNIDO has a strong track record of working with the private sector. We see this area of work as extremely important.

The private sector plays a vital role in many areas such as technology, innovations, access to markets, creating decent jobs and funding.

Initiatives such as UNIDO's Public Private Development Partnerships are key to engaging with the private sector.

Another area that is gaining importance are sustainable supply chains. UNIDO can also play an important role in supporting the private sector and other actors in meeting increasingly tight requirements in many markets.

Finally, Mr. President, let me once again express Finland's support to UNIDO.

Inclusive and sustainable industrial development is more relevant than ever to tackle global challenges the world faces from eradicating poverty to fighting climate change.

I am confident that this IDB will reach a successful outcome.

Thank you very much.