



General Conference

Twentieth session

Vienna, 27 November–1 December 2023

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda

Item 1. Opening of the session

In accordance with rule 34 of the rules of procedure of the General Conference, the President of the nineteenth session, or, in his absence, the head of the delegation from which the President of that session was elected (Tunisia), will open the twentieth session of the General Conference.

Item 2. Election of officers¹

At each regular session the Conference shall, with due regard for equitable geographical representation, elect, from among the representatives of Members, the following officers: a President and nine Vice-Presidents, as well as a Chairperson for each Main Committee (rule 35). The officers elected shall constitute the General Committee.

Election of the President

The election of the President of the General Conference is governed by rule 35 and appendix A of the rules of procedure. However, when the General Conference has been hosted outside of headquarters in Vienna, the practice has been to elect a representative of the host country as President of the Conference. In that regard, the presidency of the fifteenth session of the Conference, hosted in 2013 in Lima, was transferred from List B to List C. In return, Member States agreed that List C will skip its presidency rotation which would have been in 2021. The presidency of the eighteenth session of the Conference, hosted in 2019 in Abu Dhabi, was transferred from the African States in List A to the Asian States in List A. In return, the presidency of the nineteenth session of the Conference, hosted in 2021 in Vienna, was transferred from the Asian States in List A to the African States in List A. Therefore, the twentieth

¹ To ensure equitable geographical distribution in the election of officers and the elections to organs, account has to be taken of the latest lists of States to be included in Annex I to the Constitution. The list, as of the date of preparation of the present document, is the same as that included in document GC.20/20. Before proceeding to the elections, as explained in paragraph 2 of that document, the General Conference will have to decide in which of the lists of States (A, B, C or D) three Member States (Antigua and Barbuda, Palau and South Sudan) are to be included.

For reasons of sustainability, this document has not been printed. Delegates are kindly requested to refer to electronic versions of all documents.



session of the General Conference shall elect a President from List B of Annex I to the Constitution, as reflected in the session's working paper No. 1.

Election of other officers

The nine Vice-Presidents shall be elected so as to ensure the representative character of the General Committee (rule 35.3). Should the Conference decide to establish Main Committees (see item 4 below), the Conference shall also elect a Chairperson for each Main Committee.

Item 3. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with Article 9.4 (g) of the Constitution, the Industrial Development Board at its fifty-first session adopted the provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the General Conference, as reflected in decision IDB.51/Dec.11. The provisional agenda to be submitted to the Conference for approval is contained in document [GC.20/1](#).

Item 4. Organization of work

In accordance with rule 40, the officers elected shall constitute the General Committee. The General Committee shall propose to the Conference the establishment of Main Committees and of any other sessional bodies of the Conference. It shall propose to the Conference the allocation of items between the plenary, the Main Committees and any other sessional bodies (rule 42). In the past, at regular sessions, the Conference established a Main Committee to which all the substantive items of the agenda were referred to for a more focused debate aimed at the preparation of consensus draft decisions and resolutions for submission to the plenary. The Industrial Development Board, in decision IDB.51/Dec.11, paragraph (d), recommended to the Conference that substantive items of the provisional agenda be allocated to a Main Committee.

Furthermore, in accordance with decision IDB.51/Dec.11, paragraph (e), the President of the fifty-first session of the Industrial Development Board will conduct pre-session informal consultations for the preparation of the twentieth session of the Conference. The outcome of these consultations will be brought to the attention of the Conference.

In accordance with decision IDB.51/Dec.11, paragraph (f), Member States are urged to submit to the informal consultations any proposed draft decisions or resolutions by 1 November 2023.

When considering the organization of work, it should be kept in mind that the budget for the Conference in the programme and budgets of UNIDO, 2022–2023, provides only for a total of five working days, comprising plenary, General Committee, Credentials Committee, Main Committee and regional group meetings. Moreover, in its decision on preparations for the General Conference (IDB.51/Dec.11) the Board agreed to hold a forum on industrial development issues within the framework of the Conference (item 9 of the provisional agenda). The draft tentative schedule for the twentieth session of the Conference is shown in the annex to the present document.

The Conference will have before it:

- Lists of States included in Annex I to the Constitution of UNIDO ([GC.20/20](#))
- Report on the results of the informal consultations of Permanent Missions in Vienna for the preparation of the General Conference. Submitted by the President of the fifty-first session of the Industrial Development Board, H.E. Mr. Magdi Ahmed Mofadal Elnour (Sudan) (GC.20/CRP.1)

Item 5. Credentials of representatives to the Conference

As stipulated in Article 8.1 of the Constitution of UNIDO, the Conference shall consist of representatives of all Members of the Organization. Membership in the

Organization is defined in Article 3 of the Constitution. In accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the credentials of representatives and the names and titles of the other persons constituting the Member's delegation shall be submitted to the Director General if possible not less than one week before the opening of the session which the delegation will attend. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Director General. The credentials of representatives shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Member concerned. A Permanent Representative to the Organization does not require special credentials if their initial letter of accreditation to the Organization specifies that they are authorized to represent their Government at sessions of the Conference, it being understood that this does not preclude that Government from accrediting another person as its representative by means of special credentials.

A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference on the proposal of the President. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the United Nations General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session. A working paper on the credentials of representatives in the Conference, including the composition of the Committee, will be circulated by the Secretariat. The Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives and report without delay to the Conference, which shall decide any question arising (rule 28).

Item 6. Elections to organs²

(a) Industrial Development Board

In accordance with Article 9.1 of the Constitution, the Industrial Development Board shall consist of 53 Members of the Organization elected by the Conference, which shall give due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. In electing the members of the Board, the Conference shall observe the following distribution of seats: 33 members of the Board shall be elected from the States listed in Lists A and C, 15 from the States listed in List B, and 5 from the States listed in List D of Annex I to the Constitution.

In accordance with Article 9.2 of the Constitution, "members of the Board shall hold office from the close of the regular session of the Conference at which they were elected until the close of the regular session of the Conference four years thereafter. Members of the Board may be re-elected."^{*}

At present the Board is composed of the following fifty-two States:

Algeria^{*}, Angola^{*}, Argentina^{**}, Austria^{**}, Bangladesh^{**}, Belarus^{*}, Brazil^{*}, China^{*}, Costa Rica^{*}, Cyprus^{*}, Egypt^{*}, Finland^{*}, Germany^{*}, Ghana^{**}, Hungary^{**}, India^{**}, Indonesia^{*}, Ireland^{**}, Italy^{*}, Japan^{*}, Kenya^{*}, Kuwait^{*}, Kyrgyzstan^{*}, Luxembourg^{**}, Mali^{*}, Malta^{**}, Mexico^{*}, Mongolia^{**}, Morocco^{**}, Namibia^{*}, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)^{*}, Nigeria^{**}, Norway^{*}, Pakistan^{**}, Panama^{**}, Peru^{**}, Poland^{*}, Republic of Korea^{*}, Russian Federation^{**}, Senegal^{*}, Slovenia^{*}, South Africa^{**}, Spain^{**}, Sudan^{*}, Sweden^{*}, Switzerland^{**}, Thailand^{**}, Tunisia^{**}, Türkiye^{**}, United Arab Emirates^{*}, Uruguay^{*} and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)^{**}. One seat remains vacant^{*} (List C).

(b) Programme and Budget Committee

In accordance with Article 10.1 of the Constitution, the Programme and Budget Committee shall consist of 27 Members of the Organization elected by the Conference, which shall give due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. In electing the members of the Committee, the Conference shall observe the following

² See footnote 1.

^{*} Twenty-six States whose term of office expires at the end of the twentieth regular session of the General Conference in 2023 (decision GC.18/Dec.8 of 7 November 2019).

^{**} Twenty-seven States whose term of office expires at the end of the twenty-first regular session of the General Conference in 2025 (decision GC.19/Dec.12 of 2 December 2021).

distribution of seats: 15 members of the Committee shall be elected from the States listed in Lists A and C, 9 from the States listed in List B and 3 from the States listed in List D of Annex I to the Constitution.

In accordance with Article 10.2, “members of the Committee shall hold office from the close of the regular session of the Conference at which they were elected until the close of the regular session of the Conference two years thereafter. Members of the Committee may be re-elected”.

At its nineteenth session, the Conference elected the following States to hold office until the close of the twentieth regular session of the Conference in 2023:

Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, Tunisia, Türkiye and Uruguay. One seat remains vacant (List B).

Item 7. Annual reports of the Director General on the activities of the Organization for 2021 and 2022

In accordance with rule 13.1 (b), the provisional agenda for each regular session of the Conference shall include the annual reports of the Director General on the activities of the Organization. The Conference will thus have before it the annual reports of UNIDO for 2021 and 2022, which were submitted to the Board at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions respectively:

- *Annual Report of UNIDO 2021 (IDB.50/2)*
- *Annual Report of UNIDO 2022 (IDB.51/2)*

Item 8. Reports of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its fiftieth and fifty-first regular sessions

In accordance with Article 9.4 (c) of the Constitution, the Board shall report to the Conference at each regular session on the activities of the Board. Since the closure of the nineteenth session of the General Conference, the Board will have held two regular sessions. The Conference will have before it the following reports of those sessions:

- Report of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its fiftieth session, 21–23 November 2022 (GC.20/2)
- Report of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its fifty-first session, 3–6 July 2023 (GC.20/3)
- Addendum on the resumed fifty-first session (GC.20/3/Add.1)³

Item 9. Forum on industrial development issues

At its fifty-first session, the Board adopted decision IDB.51/Dec.11 on preparations for the twentieth session of the General Conference. In paragraph (c) of that decision, the Board agreed to hold a forum on industrial development issues within the framework of the Conference. The forum will include a series of events. Participants will be advised in due course on arrangements for the forum.

The Conference will have before it:

- Forum on industrial development issues. Issues paper by the Secretariat (GC.20/4)

³ In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the Board, the fifty-first session of the Board was adjourned on 6 July 2023. The Board agreed that the resumed session will be convened on the margins of the twentieth session of the General Conference. Document GC.20/3/Add.1 will therefore be made available following closure of the fifty-first session.

Item 10. Financial matters

(a) Scale of assessments for apportionment of the regular budget expenses for the biennium 2024–2025

In accordance with rule 13.1 (k) of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the provisional agenda for each regular session shall include recommendations of the Board for the establishment of the scale of assessments. Article 15 of the Constitution stipulates that regular budget expenditures shall be borne by the Members, as apportioned in accordance with a scale of assessments established by the Conference by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, upon the recommendation of the Board.

At its fifty-first session, the Board recommended to the General Conference, based on the provisions of Article 15.2 of the Constitution of UNIDO, that future scales of assessments shall be drafted and calculated using the same minimum rates and the same maximum rates as approved by the United Nations General Assembly at its most recent session, all rates being adjusted to take into account the difference in membership between the two organizations in order to derive a UNIDO scale of 100 per cent.

The Conference will have before it:

- Board decision IDB.51/Dec.3 on the scale of assessments for apportionment of the regular budget expenses for the biennium 2024–2025
- Scale of assessments for the fiscal period 2024–2025. Note by the Secretariat ([IDB.51/7/Rev.1](#))
- Scale of assessments for the fiscal period 2024–2025. Note by the Secretariat ([GC.20/22](#))

(b) Financial situation of UNIDO

Rule 13.1 (l) states that the provisional agenda shall include financial matters requiring action by the Conference or that should be brought to its attention. Information brought to the attention of the Conference under this item will include the status of payment of assessed contributions.

The Conference will have before it:

- Financial situation of UNIDO. Report by the Director General ([GC.20/5](#))
- Status of assessed contributions. Note by the Secretariat ([GC.20/CRP.2](#))
- Status of unutilized balances of appropriations. Note by the Secretariat ([GC.20/CRP.3](#))

(c) Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2024–2025

In accordance with financial regulation 5.4, upon recommendation of the Programme and Budget Committee and subsequently the Board, the Conference shall determine the amount and purposes of the Working Capital Fund. Financial regulation 5.5 (d) stipulates that advances to the Working Capital Fund shall be assessed and paid in euros.

The Board at its fifty-first session decided in decision IDB.51/Dec.4 to recommend to the General Conference that the level of the Working Capital Fund and the authorized purposes of the Fund for the biennium 2024–2025 should remain the same as for the biennium 2022–2023, i.e. as stipulated in decision [GC.2/Dec.27](#), paragraph (b).

The Conference will have to take action on the recommendations of the Board concerning the level and purposes of the Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2024–2025, based on consideration of document [IDB.51/8](#). Thus, the Conference will have before it:

- Board decision IDB.51/Dec.4 on the Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2024–2025
- Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2024–2025. Proposals of the Director General ([IDB.51/8](#))

(d) Appointment of an External Auditor

In accordance with financial regulation 11.1, an External Auditor, who shall be Auditor General (or an officer exercising an equivalent function) of a Member State, shall be appointed in the manner and for the period decided by the Conference. By decision GC.19/Dec.11 the Conference decided to appoint the Auditor General of the Russian Federation as the External Auditor of UNIDO for a period of two years, from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024.

The Conference will have to take action on the question of the appointment of an External Auditor for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026, as contained in:

- Candidates for the appointment of an External Auditor. Report by the Director General ([IDB.51/13](#))
- Candidates for the appointment of an External Auditor. Report by the Director General. Addendum ([IDB.51/13/Add.1](#))
- Candidates for the appointment of an External Auditor. Report by the Director General ([GC.20/21](#))
- Candidates for the appointment of an External Auditor. Report by the Director General ([GC.20/21/Add.1](#))
- Candidates for the appointment of an External Auditor. Report by the Director General ([GC.20/21/Add.2](#))
- Candidates for the appointment of an External Auditor. Note by the Secretariat ([PBC.39/CRP.7](#))

(e) Other financial matters

Through decision GC.19/Dec.16 (h), the Conference requested the Director General to report on the state of financing and implementation of the programme and budgets, 2022–2023 to the Programme and Budget Committee, the Industrial Development Board and the General Conference of UNIDO throughout the biennium. The Conference further requested the Director General to report to the Committee at its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions on efficiencies and savings between sessions, with the understanding that the search for efficiencies and savings must be a continuous management process, without hampering the core functions of the Organization.

In this regard, the Programme and Budget Committee, at its thirty-ninth session, reviewed a proposal of the Director General on budget implementation flexibility for the biennium 2024–2025 ([PBC.39/9](#)). Through conclusion 2023/8, the Committee recommended to the fifty-first session of the Board to discuss the issue of budget implementation flexibility, and requested the Secretariat to provide more information to the Member States, particularly with regard to its legal framework, transparency and monitoring and reporting mechanism.

Further to consultations between Member States and the Secretariat in the framework of the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues, the Board at its fifty-first session considered the issue of budget implementation flexibility, recommended horizontal flexibility related to the operational budget for approval by the General Conference and took note that Member States will continue to discuss vertical flexibility related to the regular budget ([IDB.51/Dec.6](#)).

The Conference will thus have before it:

- Board decision IDB.51/Dec.6 on budget implementation flexibility

- Budget implementation flexibility. Note by the Secretariat ([IDB.51/9](#))
- The UNIDO Programme and Budgets, 2024–2025: supplementary information on budget implementation flexibility. ([IDB.51/CRP.10](#))

Item 11. Programme and budgets, 2024–2025

In accordance with Article 14.4 of the Constitution, the Conference shall consider and approve the programme of work and the corresponding regular budget and operational budget submitted to it by the Board, by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting. At its fifty-first session, the Board, through decision [IDB.51/Dec.7](#), adopted the programme and budgets for the biennium 2024–2025 ([IDB.51/6](#) and [IDB.51/6/Add.1](#)).

In the context of and in connection with the proposals of the Director General for the programme and budgets, 2024–2025, the Industrial Development Board, at its fifty-first session, considered two notes by the Secretariat providing additional information on the UNIDO Innovation and Transformation Fund ([PBC.39/CRP.8](#) and [IDB.51/CRP.11](#)), as well as information on the transition of the programme and budgets structures from a programmatic approach to results-based budgeting ([PBC.39/CRP.9](#)).

The Conference will thus have before it:

- Board decision [IDB.51/Dec.7](#) on the programme and budgets, 2024–2025
- Programme and budgets 2024–2025. Proposals of the Director General ([IDB.51/6](#))
- Programme and budgets 2024–2025. Adjustments to the proposals of the Director General ([IDB.51/6/Add.1](#))

Item 12. Midterm review of the medium-term programme framework, 2022–2025: midterm update

In paragraphs (e) and (f) of decision [GC.15/Dec.17](#), the Conference at its fifteenth session requested the Director General to submit from 2015 onwards, on a quadrennial basis, to the Board in the second year of the biennium, through the Programme and Budget Committee, a draft medium-term programme framework (MTPF) for four years, taking into account the Lima Declaration: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development ([GC.15/Res.1](#)), the recommendations of the latest comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, and the recommendations of the outcome document of the informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO, entitled “Strategic Guidance Document” ([IDB.41/24](#)). At its forty-ninth session, the Board took note of a proposal by the Director General, submitted through the thirty-seventh session of the Committee, on the medium-term programme framework, 2022–2025 ([IDB.49/8](#)).

In accordance with [IDB.44/Dec.10](#), and as per established practice, the Board, at its fifty-first session, took note of the midterm update by the Director General of the medium-term programme framework, 2022–2025 ([IDB.51/10](#)), submitted through the thirty-ninth session of the Committee.

Thus, the Conference will have before it:

- Medium-term programme framework 2022–2025: midterm update. Report by the Director General ([IDB.51/10](#))

Item 13. United Nations development system reform

In June 2017, the Secretary-General launched his first report on repositioning the United Nations development system (UNDS), and a second report was issued in December 2017. On 31 May 2018, the General Assembly adopted resolution [72/279](#) on the repositioning of UNDS.

In its decision IDB.46/Dec.12, the Board requested the Director General to regularly report on UNDS reform-related matters to the Programme and Budget Committee, the Industrial Development Board and the General Conference of UNIDO.

The Conference will therefore have before it:

- United Nations development system reform. Report by the Director General ([IDB.51/16](#))

Item 14. UNIDO, gender equality and the empowerment of women

In its resolution GC.19/Res.1, the nineteenth session of the General Conference acknowledged that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and women's full and equal participation and leadership are essential for achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development, enhancing inclusive and sustained economic growth and productivity, ending poverty and ensuring the well-being of all.

It further took note with appreciation of progress made on UNIDO's Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2020–2023 ([GC.18/15](#)), and requested the Director General to continue to fully and effectively implement the strategic objectives and priority action areas outlined in the strategy, as well as to further strengthen the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in the Organization's strategic planning and programmatic activities.

At its nineteenth session, the General Conference requested the Director General to regularly report on gender equality and the empowerment of women at future sessions of the General Conference, to retain gender equality and the empowerment of all women as a standing item on the agenda of each General Conference, and to submit to the General Conference at its twentieth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

As the term of the UNIDO Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women 2020–2023 will expire at the end of 2023, following previous practice, a strategy covering the period 2024 to 2027 will be presented to the twentieth session of the Conference. The updated strategy will build on achievements and lessons learned and continue providing a relevant, comprehensive and effective direction for UNIDO's work on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The Conference will have before it:

- UNIDO, gender equality and the empowerment of women. Report by the Director General ([GC.20/6](#))
- UNIDO Operational Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2024–2027. Report by the Director General ([GC.20/7](#))

Item 15. UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

At its sixteenth session, the General Conference requested the Director General to report to Member States on UNIDO's contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, taking into consideration the report of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Global Indicator Framework (GC.16/Res.2). In the same resolution, the General Conference also requested the Director General to continue to actively contribute and pursue a leading role for UNIDO in the ongoing discussions with other international organizations and stakeholders on the follow-up and review mechanism for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 9 and other relevant and interlinked goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. At its forty-fourth session, the Board reiterated the commitment of UNIDO and its Member States to the realization of the 2030 Agenda (decision IDB.44/Dec.9). Reports on UNIDO's contribution to the 2030 Agenda were provided regularly to the Board and the General Conference.

The Conference will have before it:

- UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Report by the Director General ([IDB.51/17](#))

Item 16. Reform of the UNIDO field network

The Director General of UNIDO has led an organizational reform process to more effectively implement the Organization's mandate to support countries towards the accelerated implementation of global, regional and national development goals. The UNIDO field network plays a pivotal role to strengthen the position of the Organization and to better respond to the needs of its Member States. The Conference will be provided with an update on the Organization's reform of the UNIDO field network.

The Conference will have before it:

- Reform of the UNIDO field network. Report by the Director General ([GC.20/8](#))

Item 17. Outlook on UNIDO activities in different regions

UNIDO uses tailor-made regional approaches to respond to the requests for its services from Member States and to address common priorities and needs at the regional level. The Organization's regional activities are undertaken using streamlined approaches, rationalized resources usage and focused messaging around its support to Member States. They further underpin UNIDO's efforts to realize synergies and increase cross-organizational integration and enhance efficiency.

The Conference will be provided with information on UNIDO's response to common regional priorities, including an update on its work at the regional level that capitalizes on synergies to create greater impact.

- Outlook on UNIDO activities in different regions. Report by the Director General ([GC.20/9](#))

Item 18. UNIDO activities related to digital transformation, innovation and AI

(a) UNIDO Operational Strategy for Digital Transformation⁴

Through the Abu Dhabi Declaration (GC.18/Res.1), the General Conference acknowledged that the new technologies associated with the fourth industrial revolution, with both transformative and disruptive potential, offer significant opportunities to advance inclusive economic growth, reduce inequalities, contribute to sustainable development, resilience and human well-being and address climate change and safeguard the environment in the framework of a circular economy. Such technologies therefore present the means to achieve sustainable development, while also bringing with them challenges such as the widening of the technology gap between countries, job losses and threats to industrial safety and security.

Through resolution GC.18/Res.7, the Conference requested the Director General to enhance the contribution of UNIDO to the fourth industrial revolution by assisting developing countries in the uptake of transformative digital technologies, which would facilitate circular economy practices in value chains and industries.

UNIDO's MTPF 2022–2025, reflecting the evolving nature of industrial development as well as Member States' priorities promulgated through the Lima and Abu Dhabi declarations, identifies digital transformation and innovation as one of the three interlinked focus areas of the Organization.

⁴ Sub-item title revised from "UNIDO Strategic Framework for Digital Transformation, AI and the Fourth Industrial Revolution" to "UNIDO Operational Strategy for Digital Transformation" to reflect the new organizational nomenclature for strategic documentation, as well as the new UNIDO structure. The intended substance to be presented to the Conference remains unchanged.

At its nineteenth session, the Conference considered draft elements of a strategic framework for the fourth industrial revolution (GC.19/CRP.7).

The Conference will have before it:

- UNIDO activities related to digital transformation, innovation and AI. Report by the Director General (GC.20/10)
- UNIDO Operational Strategy for Digital Transformation. Note by the Secretariat (GC.20/CRP.4)

Item 19. UNIDO activities related to the environment, energy and circular economy

Through resolution GC.18/Res.7, the Conference welcomed the activities of UNIDO in the area of energy and the environment that are supporting Governments and industries in their sustainable industrial transformation and addressing emerging global trends. The Conference further requested the Director General to continue to integrate and scale up the energy and environment activities of UNIDO, and to further strengthen the implementation efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization's programmes co-financed by the Global Environment Facility, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, bilateral donors and multi-donor initiatives in industry-related energy, climate and environment fields.

Through resolution GC.18/Res.1, the Conference recognized circular economy as one of the means to achieve sustainable development and, through resolution GC.18/Res.7, requested the Director General to continue supporting industries to contribute to circular economy without delay by adopting energy and resource efficient manufacturing practices and innovations in design, production processes and product lifespan management, and by delivering related services.

In line with recent developments in the field of environment, energy and circular economy, UNIDO will also present the work undertaken in the areas of the decarbonization of hard-to-abate industries, climate adaptation and business innovation, biodiversity-industry nexus and nature-based solutions.

The Conference will have before it:

- UNIDO activities related to the environment, energy and circular economy. Report by the Director General (GC.20/11)
- UNIDO and the biodiversity-industry nexus. Note by the Secretariat (GC.20/CRP.5)

(a) UNIDO climate strategy and its action plan

Through resolution GC.18/Res.3, the Conference requested the Director General to continue the activities of UNIDO, in line with the priorities outlined in UNIDO's MTPF, to address climate change.

At its nineteenth session, the Conference considered documents GC.19/14 and GC.19/CRP.5 on UNIDO's strategic framework for climate action, which provided information on the impact of climate change on industrial development and the response of UNIDO to the climate crisis and its socioeconomic consequences.

Through resolution GC.19/Res.2, the Conference requested the Director General to develop a draft strategy in consultation with Member States, for consideration by the Industrial Development Board at its fiftieth session, that will enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and coordination of UNIDO's activities in support of Member States' climate priorities related to inclusive and sustainable industrial development, and to implement climate-related best practices across its operations. The draft strategy was presented to the Board at its fiftieth session in document IDB.50/16. Through decision IDB.50/Dec.5, the Board requested the Director General to continue consultations with Member States on the development of the draft strategy based on document IDB.50/16 in order to ensure its objective as identified in resolution GC.19/Res.2. It

further requested the Director General to develop, in consultation with Member States, an action plan to implement the strategy, within the mandate and available resources of UNIDO, after the above strategy is formulated.

At its fifty-first session, the Board, through decision IDB.51/Dec.8, endorsed the UNIDO Climate Change Strategy, and requested the Director General to continue consultations with Member States to develop an action plan to implement the strategy within the mandate and available resources of UNIDO, as well as to report on the progress of the action plan at the twentieth session of the General Conference.

The Conference will have before it:

- Update on the development of the action plan for the implementation of the UNIDO Climate Change Strategy. Report by the Director General ([GC.20/12](#))

Item 20. UNIDO activities related to structural transformation and sectoral expertise

(a) UNIDO activities related to agribusiness, trade capacity-building and job creation

The Annual Report of UNIDO for 2021 ([IDB.50/2](#)) and 2022 ([IDB.51/2](#)), provided updates to Member States on UNIDO activities related to agribusiness, trade capacity-building and job creation.

These themes are central to the MTPF 2022–2025 due to their critical importance in the process of structural transformation of the economies of developing countries, either as prerequisites, enablers or immediate results thereof. In document IDB.51/10 on the midterm update of the MTPF 2022–2025, the Board was informed of the Organization’s aim to strengthen UNIDO as a platform for knowledge and technology transfer, as well as the mobilization of innovations and investments with a focus on thematic areas including agribusiness, sustainable supply chains and sustainability standards.

The Conference will have before it:

- UNIDO activities related to agribusiness, trade capacity-building and job creation. Report by the Director General ([GC.20/13](#))

Item 21. UNIDO activities related to the Vienna Ministerial Declaration for the Least Developed Countries

In its resolution GC.19/Res.3, the nineteenth session of the General Conference invited the Director General to take special account of the needs of the least developed countries (LDCs) in accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development, in cooperation with relevant partners and stakeholders during the next Decade of Action. The Conference also requested UNIDO to develop its next Operational Strategy and implementation plan for the LDCs 2022–2031, and to mainstream it into the Organization’s overall work, while ensuring alignment with the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs 2022–2031 and relevant UNIDO strategic frameworks and policies.

The General Conference further requested the Director General to report on related UNIDO activities to the Industrial Development Board at its next session and the General Conference at its twentieth session and to continue reporting annually to the United Nations Secretary-General on its work in the LDCs.

The Conference will have before it:

- UNIDO activities in support of least developed countries. Report by the Director General ([GC.20/14](#))
- Update on the preparation process of the UNIDO Operational Strategy for the Least Developed Countries 2022–2031. Report by the Director General ([GC.20/15](#))

Item 22. UNIDO activities related to cooperation with middle-income countries

In its resolution GC.18/Res.9, the eighteenth session of the General Conference adopted the UNIDO Strategic Framework for Partnering with Middle-Income Countries and requested the Director General to prepare a workplan for its implementation, to be presented at the forty-eighth session of the Board.

At its forty-eighth session, through the decision IDB.48/Dec.7, the Board took note of the workplan proposal and requested the Director General to finalize the workplan through consultations with Member States, and to present it for consideration to the Board at its forty-ninth session.

At its forty-ninth session, the Board took note of the report by the Director General (IDB.49/20) and acknowledged the distribution of the UNIDO workplan for partnering with middle-income countries (IDB.49/CRP.10). Through decision IDB.49/Dec.11, the Board decided to continue its consideration of the workplan at its fiftieth session.

In decision IDB.50/Dec.6, the Board took note of the updated UNIDO workplan for partnering with middle-income countries (IDB.50/CRP.7) and requested the Director General to operationalize it ensuring its effective and efficient implementation in 2022–2025, as well as to report regularly to the Board.

At its fifty-first session, the Board took note of the report of the Director General on UNIDO's activities related to the cooperation with middle-income countries (IDB.51/20).

The Conference will have before it:

- UNIDO activities related to cooperation with middle-income countries. Report by the Director General ([GC.20/16](#))

Item 23. Personnel matters, including the UNIDO Staff Pension Committee

The Conference will have to take action concerning candidates for election to the UNIDO Staff Pension Committee for the years 2024 and 2025. The Conference may also wish to authorize the Board to proceed with the election for any Committee posts that might become vacant before the Conference holds its twenty-first session.

The Conference will thus have before it:

- Personnel matters: UNIDO Staff Pension Committee. Report by the Director General ([GC.20/17](#))

Item 24. Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations

In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the provisional agenda for each regular session shall include reports from specialized and related agencies and from other intergovernmental organizations with which UNIDO has concluded a relationship agreement pursuant to Article 19.1 (a) of the Constitution, and items proposed by them, where the agreement establishing the relationship with the organization concerned so provides.

In the guidelines for the relationship of UNIDO with intergovernmental, governmental, non-governmental and other organizations adopted by the General Conference at its first session (GC.1/Dec.41, annex), it is stipulated that the Director General shall report to the Conference at each regular session on any agreements with intergovernmental and governmental organizations entered into by him on behalf of the Organization since the preceding regular session as well as on any consultative relations established with non-governmental organizations in the same period.

Updated information on the status of relations with intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations will be provided to the Conference.

The Conference will thus have before it:

- Relations with intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations. Note by the Director General ([GC.20/18](#))

Item 25. Date and place of the twenty-first session

Article 8.2 (a) of the Constitution stipulates that the Conference shall hold a regular session every two years, unless it decides otherwise. In the programme and budget proposals of the Director General for 2024–2025, provisions have been made to hold the twenty-first session of the General Conference for the duration of five working days. The dates of 24 to 28 November 2025 have been scheduled tentatively for the twenty-first session of the Conference in Vienna.

The Conference will thus have before it:

- Date and place of the twenty-first session of the General Conference. Report by the Director General ([GC.20/19](#))

Item 26. Closure of the session

Annex

Proposed tentative schedule of work of the General Conference, twentieth session, 27 November–1 December 2023, dated 17 November 2023

Fair globalization: Innovative solutions for the industry of tomorrow

<i>Monday, 27 November</i>	<i>Tuesday, 28 November</i>	<i>Wednesday, 29 November</i>	<i>Thursday, 30 November</i>	<i>Friday, 1 December</i>
	Thematic event <u>9–10 a.m.</u> Driving a just hydrogen transition: Key enablers for clean hydrogen uptake and de-risking of investments	Credentials Committee <u>9.30–10.15 a.m.</u> <i>(tentative)</i>		
1st plenary meeting <u>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</u> Opening of the session Statements by Heads of State and Government General debate	3rd plenary meeting <u>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</u> 10–11.30 a.m.: General debate 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.: Making gender equality a lived reality in industry	5th plenary meeting <u>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</u> General debate	7th plenary meeting <u>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</u> General debate Credentials of representatives to the Conference Appointment of an External Auditor	9th plenary meeting <u>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</u> General debate <i>(if required)</i>
	Main Committee – 1st meeting <u>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</u>	Main Committee – 3rd meeting <u>10.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.</u>	Main Committee – 5th meeting <u>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</u>	
Inauguration of the Exhibition <u>1–1.30 p.m.</u>				
General Committee <u>2.30–3 p.m.</u>	Thematic event <u>2–3.30 p.m.</u> Accelerating the green transition: Critical minerals, metals production and a fair future for all	Thematic event <u>2–3.30 p.m.</u> Building resilient supply chains for the energy transition	Thematic event <u>2–3.30 p.m.</u> AIM Global: Inclusive AI – Bridging the digital divide in industry and manufacturing	
2nd plenary meeting <u>3–6 p.m.</u> UNIDO Industrial Innovation Forum <u>1st High-level panel</u> : Ending hunger is possible – UNIDO’s contribution <u>2nd High-level panel</u> : Sustainable supply chains: Achieving fair globalization <u>3rd High-level panel</u> : Climate action: Accelerating net-zero and climate resilient industrial development	4th plenary meeting <u>3.30–6.30 p.m.</u> 3.30–5 p.m.: General debate 5–6.30 p.m.: Industrialization in middle-income countries: A driving force for sustainable development	6th plenary meeting <u>3.30–6.30 p.m.</u> 3.30–5 p.m.: General debate 5–6.30 p.m.: Industrial policy for a fair globalization: Insights from the Industrial Development Report 2024	8th plenary meeting <u>3.30–6.30 p.m.</u> General debate <i>(if required)</i>	10th plenary meeting <u>3.30–6.30 p.m.</u> Consideration and adoption of decisions and resolutions Closure of the session
	Main Committee – 2nd meeting <u>3.30–6.30 p.m.</u>	Main Committee – 4th meeting <u>5–6.30 p.m.</u>	Main Committee – 6th meeting <u>3.30–6.30 p.m.</u> <i>(if required)</i>	
Cultural event hosted by the Director General <u>6.30–8 p.m.</u>				