

# Finland's statement at UNIDO GC

*H.E. Ville Tavio, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development*

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## **Excellences, distinguished delegates,**

It is a pleasure for me to address you at the twentieth session of the UNIDO General Conference.

I would like to recognize the important work of UNIDO, lead by Director General Gerd Müller, to promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development. I encourage UNIDO to seek even more tangible results.

Inclusive and sustainable industrial development is crucial for tackling global challenges such as eradicating poverty, fighting climate change and meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

For UNIDO to remain a key player in promoting sustainable development it must ensure broad support among the UN member states. Hard work is needed.

## **Ladies and gentlemen,**

Strengthening the status of women and girls is at the core of Finland's development policy.

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 strides forward in promoting gender equality.

However, more can be still be done. One important step is to ensure sufficient and predictable funding for UNIDO's Gender Unit. UNIDO must set an example in promoting women's rights, starting from the way UNIDO itself is organized.

We cannot afford steps backwards in gender equality. It would be unsustainable both humanly and economically.

**Distinguished delegates,**

UNIDO has a strong track-record of working with the private sector. Initiatives such as UNIDO's Public Private Development Partnerships are key to engaging with the private sector.

I am particularly looking forward to results from the ICT value chain project in Egypt. It is part of the Switch to Circular Economy Value Chains initiative funded by Finland and the EU.

UNIDO needs to be attractive and approachable to private business in order to increase resources, funding and jobs in partner countries.

**In closing,** I would like to wish you a very successful twentieth session of the UNIDO General Conference.

Thank you very much.