General Conference UNIDO, 20th Session (27.11 – 01.12.2023)

Mr. President, Excellencies,

I am honored to address you, the distinguished guests of the twentieth session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization from here in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has recently passed its six hundredth day. Damage and destruction continues to mount, with no region in the country safe from attack. But despite the uninterrupted fighting, we continue working to create a better future for our country, together with our friends and partners.

We are happy that this work is visible and widely recognized, and that the progress we have made has already produced tangible results. Earlier this month, the European Commission recommended the opening of accession negotiations, reflecting the enormous progress that had been made in a record time. And I am happy that negotiations on the Ukraine Facility that will bring important financial support are moving quickly as well. We know that more work is to come in order to rebuild a resilient, green and EU-compatible system in Ukraine, but with the strong support of our partners I believe we will be victorious.

UNIDO stands as our key United Nations partner for green industrial recovery, development and modernization of Ukraine. Great progress is being made with the generous financial support of several partners, including the European Union and the Governments of Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Poland, and <u>Switzerland</u>. Together, we are helping people with disabilities, vulnerable women, and internally displaced persons.

We are now working closely with UNIDO to address our needs and develop impact-oriented activities to be part of the forthcoming green industrial recovery programme. This programme, which focuses on creating opportunities for people, supporting business and attracting investment, and fostering a green economy, will be a large-scale, evidence-based and result-oriented framework that will help rebuild Ukraine's industry and make it stronger than ever. We want to build a resilient, green, EU-compatible industry of Ukraine. For that, we need the long-term support of UNIDO and commitment from funding partners. And we need this support now. Investment is beginning to flow, thanks to the efforts of the international community and the guarantees international finance institutions have put in place. But we need technical assistance to create jobs and generate income for people, and support SMEs who had to relocate or adjust their operations. We have told UNIDO what we need to support our industrial and economic recovery, and the Organization can effectively deliver; we encourage all of you to work together with UNIDO to make this a reality.

On behalf of the Ministry of Strategic Industries of Ukraine, I wish to thank UNIDO for supporting the recovery, development and prosperity of Ukraine and its people. I thank everyone who helps Ukraine!

Слава Україні! Glory to Ukraine!