

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
20th GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO
GENERAL DEBATE
by H.E. LEVENT ELER
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA**

Thank you Madam President,

We congratulate you for your assumption of the Presidency and the members of the Bureau for their election.

We thank the Director General for his comprehensive introductory statement.

Madam President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Türkiye is determined to build its economic framework on the digital and green transformation of industry. The “2023 Industry and Technology Strategy”, published in 2019, is a crucial pillar towards this objective.

Our Strategy for future consists of five main components: “High Technology and Innovation”, “Digital Transformation and Industry”, “Entrepreneurship”, “Human Capital” and “Infrastructure”.

These themes indeed bear a resemblance to UNIDO’s main areas of activities and focus, laying the grounds for enhanced cooperation with the Organization.

In this regard, we positively note UNIDO's proactive stance on global issues such as Climate Change, Energy Transition, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and Circular Economy.

“Energy transition” for instance, stands out as one of the main pillars of Türkiye’s energy policy.

This transition includes the addition of nuclear in our energy mix. Nuclear Energy is part of the climate crisis solution. It will have a positive impact on our industrial development as a whole, as well.

Türkiye is open to cooperation including renewables and clean energy.

In this respect, we continue to diversify domestic resources, including renewables, and support investments to utilize these sources efficiently and effectively.

Madam President,

Türkiye is actively engaged in extensive development and humanitarian assistance activities across Asia and Africa, in the regions where UNIDO also has been diversifying its activities.

Türkiye as a sectoral dialogue partner with ASEAN, is developing and implementing projects in the area of trade and economy, agriculture, human resources and education.

Furthermore, as stipulated in the Action Plan of the Third Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit, Türkiye and the African Union decided to make “Infrastructure Development and Agriculture” one of the six priorities in the shared cooperation agenda. Our relevant institutions have already undertaken a wide range of projects in this cluster.

Those projects cover planning of irrigation facilities; developing alternatives for reuse of used water; managing the effects of climate change on water resources.

Madam President,

Türkiye attaches importance to UNIDO's initiatives aimed at supporting the structural transformation and industrialization of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The recent Tenth Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries, held on 24-25 November 2023 in Vienna was a significant opportunity to reinforce stakeholder commitment and emphasize the needs and challenges of the LDCs.

Türkiye hosts and financially supports the United Nations Technology Bank for LDCs, which carries out projects towards these countries, jointly with other UN agencies and relevant institutions in Türkiye.

The operationalization of the UN Technology Bank marked the achievement of the first SDG target (17.8).

The Banks' role has become even more important due to the widened digital gap during the pandemic.

We encourage further cooperation between UNIDO and the UN Technology Bank in this regard, and call for donor support to its activities.

Madam President,

The UNIDO Centre for Regional Cooperation (UCRC) in Ankara plays a crucial role in providing much-needed capacity building activities for experts from Central Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

On another note, we welcome and support the ongoing consultations between UNIDO and the Organization of Turkic States on finalizing the "Joint Declaration".

Director General's meeting in Vienna in April with the Secretary General of OTS proves to be the first step towards enhanced cooperation between the two organizations.

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) stands as a significant objective for the OTS, as stated in the 'Declaration of the Tenth Summit of the Organization of Turkic States issued in Astana Summit on 3 November.

The declaration, serving as a guiding document for the OTS, welcomed the efforts of the OTS Secretariat on establishing close collaboration between the OTS and the UNIDO in the realization of common objectives.

Madam President,

We are extremely worried about the unfolding situation in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza has been the biggest tragedy in recent history as a consequence of attacks by Israel. Unfortunately, the death toll has surpassed 14.000. Two-thirds of those who have lost their lives during this conflict are women, children and the elderly.

There can be no excuse or justification for deprivation of 2,5 million people of Gaza of food, water, electricity and fuel. Collective punishment and forced displacement must end.

We underscore the urgency of ending further devastation and restoring Gaza's infrastructure.

Türkiye continues its humanitarian efforts in Gaza, including our work for setting up a field hospital in the region.

The recent agreement for a humanitarian pause is a positive step. Türkiye will step up diplomatic efforts for the release of hostages and establishment of a permanent cease fire.

I would like to emphasize that the only way to stop this spiral of violence that cost innocent lives, is to address the historical injustice lying at the heart of this conflict.

The international community must intensify efforts, not only for ending this human tragedy but also for achieving a political solution based on two-state vision.

In conclusion, I would like to indicate that Türkiye is committed to continue its fruitful cooperation with UNIDO in strengthening sustainable industrialization.

We also believe that providing UNIDO with necessary resources is key for the operational continuity of the organization. With this understanding, Türkiye has paid its assessed contribution to the regular budget of 2023 in full.

Thank you.