

Statement by the Government of Sweden

Agenda item 3: Annual Report of the Director General
50th session of the Industrial Development Board (IDB)
United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
Vienna, 21-23 November 2022

Mr/s. President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

First, let me congratulate you on your election, Mr/s President. Sweden looks forward to a constructive cooperation throughout your tenure. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing President, Ambassador Dominika Krois of Poland for her important efforts.

Sweden fully aligns with the statement made by the European Union. In addition, we want to highlight a couple of points in our national capacity.

Mr/s President,

UNIDO currently operates in a difficult environment that is characterised by a high number of global crises that challenges not only people's life and welfare, but also poses a threat to sustainable development.

In this context we cannot refrain from addressing the situation in Ukraine. The illegal crime of aggression by the Russian Federation and the illegal annexation of Ukrainian territory, is a

flagrant violation of the charter and international law. We call on all member states to condemn these criminal acts and urge the Russian Federation to cease its illegal military aggression and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders.

Mr/s President,

We thank the Director General of UNIDO Dr. Gerd Müller for presenting the annual report for 2021. In our opinion this report contains a clear vision for the organisation going forward.

The priorities laid out in the report, including contributing to a green transition, addressing food security, energy efficiency and improving access to renewable energy, are examples where UNIDO's expertise and experience can bring an added value.

On climate change, we fully support a role for the organisation in the work to fulfil the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Developing a climate strategy will be a vital next step and we look forward to engaging in this process. We also want to commend UNIDO's strong engagement in the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) just held in Egypt.

We welcome the reforms taking place within UNIDO and we look forward to following their implementation. Reforms should ensure that the organisation is fit for purpose and fit for the future. Important progress has been made towards achieving gender parity in the organisation, however, more needs to be done,

especially in the staff categories on senior management level. We trust there is a strong commitment to deliver on this as well.

Reforms must also facilitate and lay the ground for establishing links and collaboration across the UN-system. The recently established cooperation between UNIDO and the Food and Agriculture Organization – FAO, on Food Security is an important example in this regard. We encourage more similar initiatives to follow.

Mr/s. President,

Gender mainstreaming and gender responsiveness of UNIDO's work is a key priority for Sweden. Allow us here to take the opportunity thank UNIDO for the long-term commitment to highlight and advance gender equality, including through the Vienna Discussion Forum, organized annually in a collaboration between Finland, Norway, Sweden and UNODC.

To conclude, Sweden would like to reiterate our support to UNIDO and its Director General Gerd Muller. We trust his vision as laid out in this report will continue to make UNIDO relevant to tackle future crisis while contributing to our joint path towards a more sustainable, equal, just and peaceful future.

I thank you for your attention.