

**STATEMENT**  
**by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on general debate**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference of UNIDO**

**27 November – 1 December 2023**  
**Vienna**

Madame President,

At the outset, the Delegation of Azerbaijan congratulates you, Madame President, on your election and expresses our readiness to engage constructively for a successful execution of this session.

With its mandate reflected in Sustainable Development Goal 9, which recognizes the role of industry, innovation and infrastructure for sustainable development, UNIDO is of relevance and importance to developing countries, including Azerbaijan.

We appreciate UNIDO`s contribution to the accomplishment of the goals of the 2030 Agenda through its support to Member States in achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Attainment of the commitments related to the SDGs represents the pivotal part of the socio-economic policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Scoring 73.5 out of 100 points possible on the SDG achievement index, Azerbaijan ranks 53<sup>rd</sup> out of 166 countries in the 2023 Sustainable Development Report. Next year Azerbaijan plans to submit its fourth Voluntary National Review Report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Sustainably growing competitive economy, innovations and competitive human capital, green growth and clean environment are among five national priorities for socio-economic development of the country till 2030. Number of state programs and strategies have been adopted aimed at modernization of the industry and strengthening its competitiveness, enhancement of energy-efficiency, promotion of scientific and innovative production, preparation of qualified labor force for new industries.

The Government of Azerbaijan has launched tremendous restoration projects for economic and social development of the liberated territories of Azerbaijan while simultaneously mainstreaming smart city/village and green energy concepts and creating industrial parks and economic zones thus reviving and developing industrial potential of these territories. It will also have a positive contribution to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development in our country.

UNIDO`s activities related to the energy, circular economy and environment, including transboundary environmental issues stemming from irresponsible industrial activities is of importance for the advancement of environmentally sustainable industrial development.

Notwithstanding the fact that the oil and gas sector plays an important role in our economy, the Government of Azerbaijan has set an ambitious target to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions by 35% by 2030 and 40% by 2050, compared to the base year of 1990. We aim to increase the share of renewable energy sources in Azerbaijan's total installed electricity capacity from the current 17% to 30% by 2030.

As digital technologies become increasingly mainstream, we welcome UNIDO`s efforts to focus on digital transformation. The Government of Azerbaijan established Center for Analysis and Coordination of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to study challenges of digital economy and design and test relevant strategies, policies and regulatory frameworks in cooperation with public, private-sector partners and academia. With this Center Azerbaijan joined World Economic Forum`s C4IR Network (*Center for Fourth Industrial Revolution Network*), which is the global platform focused on inclusive technology governance and responsible digital transformation.

We encourage UNIDO to continue its support to Member States in developing reliable and sustainable supply chains given their role in driving inclusive industrial development. It can create new opportunities and benefits for further integration of countries to the regional and global markets.

We believe that structural reforms of UNIDO including reform of its field network can be beneficial for successful implementation of the mandate of organization and we encourage UNIDO to conduct this process in close consultation with relevant Member States.

This year marks 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Azerbaijan`s membership to UNIDO. We highly appreciate all the efforts undertaken by UNIDO in providing assistance to Azerbaijan in line with the country`s economic development priorities, aimed at achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Cooperation Framework signed between Azerbaijan and UNIDO in 2022 builds on the results of this long-standing cooperation and guides joint efforts for a strengthened partnership in the upcoming three years with special focus on environment and energy, non-oil sector, digital transformation and innovations, quality infrastructure and agro-industrial sector. Assistance in establishment of industrial and technology parks and free economic zones in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan is of particular importance for Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan is ready to continue its practical cooperation with UNIDO based on county`s economic development priorities.

In conclusion, Madame President, we once again reiterate our full support to your efforts to have a productive General Conference and look forward to further deliberations.