

## **Statement by Norway to the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the UNIDO General Conference**

### **General debate**

Norway aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. I would like to make the following remarks in a national capacity:

Norway is a firm supporter of the UN system and a rules-based multilateral order. Now, more than ever, the world needs strong multilateral institutions and cooperation to tackle global challenges.

Let us therefore, at the outset, underline that Norway reiterates its firm condemnation of Russia's continuing war of aggression against Ukraine as a blatant violation of international law.

Further: Norway remains extremely concerned about the situation in Gaza. We have been clear about Israel's right to self-defense against the horrible attacks committed by Hamas. We have likewise been clear that any military operations by Israel must be within the limits of international humanitarian law.

Distinguished delegates,

The UN needs to be strengthened so that we are better equipped to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

Over the last years we have witnessed an alarming decline in global food security. Hunger is on the rise, and for the first time in modern history we might be facing a situation where there will not be produced enough food to feed the world.

The resilience of national food systems in many countries has been undermined by several factors; climate change, conflict, lack of investment, and the competition from cheaper imports are just some of these factors.

Norway has recently launched our new strategy for food security, mainly targeting Sub-Saharan Africa. This strategy is intended to help achieve an increase in local climate-resilient food production; an increase in local value creation and incomes for food producers; reduction in malnutrition and undernutrition, and reduction in the scale of hunger crisis.

We must intensify our efforts to overcome our efforts against climate change, and to facilitate a just, green transition to clean energy. We have a duty to deliver this accelerated transition fairly and justly – leaving no one, and no region, behind.

We must recognize that the supposed choice between, saving the environment and securing employment is a false one. In fact, if our future is to be sustainable and equitable, we cannot have one without the other. Rather we should see this ecological transition as something positive for our societies at large. Something that can support job creation and social justice.

Norway and Mexico have together tabled a resolution on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Norway has for the previous four General Conferences submitted a resolution on this topic. We thank all delegations for the constructive engagement and cooperation during the informals.

We are not on track to reach the Sustainable Development Goal on gender equality and women's empowerment. This should be a wakeup call to all of us to do more. It is crucial to systematically mainstream a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We appreciate the progress UNIDO has made in this regard, by increasing the access of all women to productive resources; by creating enabling conditions for women's entrepreneurship and by job creation, education and vocational training.

A new action plan for women's rights and gender equality in Norway's foreign and development policy was published in October. The strategy underlines that ensuring women equal rights and opportunities is not only a question of justice. It is about maintaining a strong and sustainable welfare system for future generations. It is about sound economics for the individuals and for society. A modern, competitive economy needs the best heads and hands, regardless of gender. And we know that talent and skills are equally divided between men and women.

Norway is supporting UNIDO's *Global Market Access Program* (GMAP) with up to NOK 110 million over a five-year period. This is a global program, aiming at strengthening national quality infrastructure and compliance capacities. It will facilitate and improve market access for selected value chains in developing countries.

We consider GMAP an engine that supports developing countries engaging in safe trade by building self-sustaining value chains and thus promoting economic growth.

We look forward to cooperating closely with UNIDO on UNIDO's important contributions to green and inclusive sustainable industrial development.