

As delivered!

20 UNIDO General Conference 2023

General debate

Statement by Bulgaria

Madam President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election of the 20th General Conference of UNIDO. I assure you in my delegation's full support.

Bulgaria aligns itself with the EU statement.

Bulgaria welcomes UNIDO's reform agenda and strategic vision under its motto "Progress by innovation". We commend UNIDO Director General Gerd Müller for his efforts to make the Organization fit for purpose via an ambitious reform process.

For Bulgaria, it is important that UNIDO strengthen its central position with regard to the achievement of SDG 9 in line with the needs and priorities of Member States. This includes sharing common principles and visions for sustainable industrial development such as individual liberty, gender equality, environmental sustainability and tackling inequalities, diversity and inclusion.

The Aggressive war of Russia against Ukraine has violated all these principles. It has not only created immense human suffering and colossal damages to Ukraine industrial sector and infrastructure, but also widely affected the global energy and food supplies, which is essential for the sustainable development.

Since the outbreak of the Russian invasion, Bulgaria stood with Ukraine and supported the recovery of the country. We commend UNIDO for its initiative in support of the industrial recovery of Ukraine. It is in the spirit of solidarity with the Ukrainian people and in line with our unwavering support Bulgaria has decided to contribute to the UNIDO Green Industrial recovery Program. We see the Program as a useful tool to address the restoration of the livelihoods of war-affected people, support sectors and businesses that were damaged or relocated as a result of the war and strengthen the long-term sustainability and resilience of Ukraine's industry.

We welcome the UNIDO focus on energy and digitalization in line with the Abu Dhabi Declaration. The global energy landscape is evolving at a rapid pace. Digitalization is key for the efficiency of power generating assets. Our efforts to decarbonize electricity, transport, agriculture, and industries will depend on consistent investment. We believe that energy efficiency, renewable energy, carbon capture and storage, smart grids, new transportation technology and nuclear power could all contribute to curtailing greenhouse gas emissions while promoting energy security via diversity. The principle of technological neutrality, especially in the context of nuclear and hydropower capacities, as well as hydrogen from low-carbon sources, is key for the timely and sustainable transition.

Bulgaria looks forward the upcoming COP 28 in Dubai as an opportunity to inject political momentum on the Global Stocktake as a key milestone in enhancing ambitious climate action for the coming years. We believe that UNIDO can contribute to this process through its Climate Change Strategy aiming at alignment with organizational priorities, including the applicable program and budgets and medium-term program frameworks, key indicators and targets, funding partner engagement and resource mobilization.

We consider of primary importance the role of UNIDO in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and welcome the development of the new UNIDO Strategy in this policy. Bulgaria is among the first three countries in Europe in terms of the number of female scientists. When it comes to new technologies, Bulgaria is in the lead in the number of women in information and communication technologies. However, this is not a given; it means that strong support is needed for those already active and inspiration and support for those who have decided to embark on this path.

Finally, Madam President, I wish to congratulate you for the efficiency and the wisdom with which you are chairing our Conference and wish all participants successful conclusion of our deliberations.