



Statement of the Republic of Malta for the 20th Session of the UNIDO General Conference – Pre-recorded message by the Hon. Dr Ian Borg, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade

Vienna, 27 November 2023

President, Director General,
Excellencies, Colleagues
Distinguished Delegates

I congratulate you, President, on your election. I am confident that through your able guidance, this Session of the General Conference will be a success. Let me assure you of my delegation's full support.

This is the first GC with you, DG (Gerd) Müller, at the helm of UNIDO. Like your predecessors, you are a strong advocate for innovative energy sources and technologies as the foundation for all development and progress. As you rightly point out, this approach is crucial not only for the protection of our climate and global public goods, but also for the transition to a new, sustainable, and equitable global growth and globalisation model.

While Malta fully aligns with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU, I wish to add some comments, in a national capacity.

(Yes,) We fully agree with your perspective, dear DG, on promoting new technologies and knowledge sharing for worldwide solutions, as well as the need for a new Green Deal coupled with increased investment, particularly in African countries. Under your leadership, DG Müller, we call for fair and sustainable supply chains and competitive green economies. Planet Earth has been waiting a long time for this change, and with COP 28 approaching in a few days, we urge all participating delegations to step up their efforts and implement crucial changes.

As a small country, Malta has always believed in the benefits created by shared economic visions. We firmly believe that UNIDO plays a vital role in this equation through its value-added assistance. The establishment of an equitable society, enabling all to benefit from the wealth created by sustainable industrialization is at the core of UNIDO. However, it is imperative that we translate our words into tangible actions. The urgent need to implement the 2030 SDGs and transforming the coming years into a Decade of Action in this regard, cannot be overstated.

Building upon our commitment to sustainable development and green economies, Malta is eager to expand its strategic engagement in Africa, aligning with our national strategy and our shared goals with UNIDO. Malta-based enterprises are poised to enhance their role in Africa, a vision that resonates with Malta's strategy for Africa (2020-2025). Their current engagement in research, bilateral trade, and investment is commendable and sets a foundation for deepened collaboration. Malta's proactive stance in contributing to solutions and promoting policies for growth is pivotal as we seek to expand our engagement with Africa, a continent brimming with opportunities. We affirm our commitment to gender equality, emphasising the equal participation of women as a cornerstone in shaping inclusive employment prospects. By championing women in leadership within UNIDO, we not only adhere to our principles but also exemplify them.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF MALTA
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE,
THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

In conclusion, Malta strongly reiterates its support for UNIDO as the Agency most suitable for providing its members with the necessary tools, guidance and expertise to sustain equitable growth, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

Thank you.