

UNIDO GC.20
Agenda item: General debate

Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Armenia

Madam President,

Allow me to start by congratulating you on your election as the President of the General Conference and assure you of our delegation's full support.

Madam President,

Armenia reiterates its support to Director General Müller and his reform agenda of progress by innovation, and commend efforts to promote inclusive, environmentally sustainable and resilient industrial development, and to assist states in their efforts of transitioning to green development, including climate and carbon neutral energy, decoupling industrial development from environmental degradation, to energy efficiency and facilitation and promotion of digital transformation through effective integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions into industrial development policies.

Armenia was among countries that co-sponsored the resolution on UNIDO's strategy in response to climate change at the 19th session of the General Conference, and we welcome the endorsement of the Strategy by the Industrial Development Board and look forward to discussions on the Action Plan for its implementation.

We attach great importance to promoting the circular economy, and encourage UNIDO to continue engaging with member states, especially developing countries, to foster adoption of circular practices and more efficient resource utilization.

We are convinced that full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires renewed commitment towards mainstreaming gender equality across all sectors. As a supporter of the women empowerment agendas across the UN system and beyond Armenia fully supports the activities of UNIDO related to the implementation of gender equality vision and efforts to mainstream the gender aspect in all projects and programmes. We welcome the establishment of the UNIDO Group of Friends for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, of which Armenia is also a member, and thank Norway and Mexico for tabling the relevant draft resolution.

Madam President,

Armenia is committed to attaining sustainable development through a multifaceted approach and actions such as fostering innovation, investing in education, promoting a business-friendly environment, and building strong institutions to ensure long-term stability. To foster environmental resilience, we undertake efforts to harness renewable energy sources, like solar and wind power. These initiatives contribute to creating a foundation for innovation and a more inclusive economy.

Addressing the digital divide is another priority for the Government of Armenia. Our focus remains on empowering underrepresented communities and bolstering small and medium sized enterprises through targeted training programmes and the provision of essential infrastructure to ensure equitable access to technology and information. By enabling access and facilitating engagement with AI technologies, we aim to create an inclusive digital ecosystem, ensuring that the benefits of AI are accessible across diverse sectors and regions.

The long-standing and constructive cooperation of Armenia with UNIDO, including on promotion of green and circular economy, environmental management and enhancement of sustainable agribusiness, contributes to our national efforts to improve industrial output and productivity through sustainable economic transformation, industrial diversification, and digitalization based on innovations and technology transfer.

The Country Programme for Armenia for years 2022-2026 provides a framework for a more targeted and result oriented engagement with UNIDO, by identifying areas for industrial advancement, developing and refining skills, capacity building, facilitating partnerships and supporting policies that foster innovation.

In line with our national priorities, we also closely work with UNIDO to promote the digital transformation in Armenia to enhance the national capacities necessary for advancing the high-tech sector and to promote digital transformation of small and medium-sized enterprises. Such projects will help to scale up the efforts of the Government of Armenia towards building institutional, human and technological capacities necessary for the effective digital transformation, while reinforcing the country's legislative framework and enabling infrastructure.

Madam President,

Conflict and armed aggression challenge the resilience of our societies. At the same time Armenia remains committed to the goal of achieving lasting, just and sustainable peace in our region and faithfully engages and supports all efforts to this end. The concept of "Crossroads of Peace", which has been developed by the Government of Armenia, is

aimed to fully explore the opportunities for economic development for the South Caucasus region and beyond, including through the unblocking of regional communications.

In conclusion, Madam President, I would like to reiterate Armenia's strong commitment to the effective and result-oriented cooperation with UNIDO and all other partners in promoting sustainable and inclusive industrial development, accelerating the implementation of 2030 Agenda and SDGs in line with the collective pledge to leave no one behind.

I thank you.