



## GC20 Closing Remarks

Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, M Building Plenary

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Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me thank you all for your great engagement over this past week. The 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNIDO General Conference has been a great success. That is because of your hard work, spirited debates and the decisions and resolutions you have passed. We have not only discussed the difficult economic situation in the various Member States, we also developed proposals and solutions. Five hundred and ninety two delegates have been taking part!

My gratitude especially goes to Her Excellency Ms. Debora Lepre for her outstanding leadership as President of this General Conference - I thank you so much. I would also like to thank the Vice Presidents for their excellent work:

Mr. Latroch from Algeria,  
Mr. Bin Mohammed Ibrahim from Malaysia,  
Ms. Sellner from Austria,  
Ms. Muñoz Mera from Ecuador,

Ms. Kaszás from Hungary,  
and Mr. Andrukonis from Poland.

I thank as well the Chair and Vice Chair of the Main Committee, Ms. Vizi from Montenegro and Mr. O'Leary from Ireland, for steering our discussions. And the translation and interpretation team for their hard work making those discussions possible.

My dear colleagues,

UNIDO has been reformed and modernized. You could see that in our new discussion formats, the panels and side events, and the new colors here. My gratitude goes to the UNIDO team for the organizing and running of this General Conference. Let me specifically mention in this regard Ms. Esther Salguero-Gomez and our Director of the Policymaking Organs Division, Mr. Kai Bethke. My sincere thanks to them and their teams for their efforts.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now I will be brief! In my opening remarks on Monday, I called it our „task of the century“ to enable development and economic growth for all, while also protecting the environment of our planet, global goods and the climate. But take optimism away with you from

this General Conference. We do indeed have the technology, the knowledge and the solutions for this.

SDG 8 calls for economic development and industrialization in developing countries to create jobs for hundreds of millions of people. Its stated target is 7% growth. Our discussions here this week have made it clear what is needed: investments in infrastructure, creating sustainable energy systems, and supporting food security. Moreover, investments in green technologies, digitalization, artificial intelligence, education, and the empowerment of women.

In this time sustainable industrialization – SDG 9 - matters more than ever. UNIDO has the mandate to promote economic growth and sustainable development. I very much appreciate the Member States' vision and support for the future of UNIDO, as we see in the resolutions you have passed: UNIDO is your partner for the future. We will further strengthen our organization. We will follow our goal of increasing TC implementation by 25%. We will create new partnerships.

So now, I look forward. Our next initiative is delivering a strong contribution at the Climate Conference. The conference began with the announcement of the Loss and Damage Fund. This is an important first step in the

right direction. In Dubai, UNIDO will be focusing on stressing the need for investment in the expansion of renewable energy sources, and on promoting green hydrogen in developing countries.

At the end of this 20th Session of the UNIDO General Conference now with a very big „Thank You“ to all of you. Particularly to the Conference Presidium, the president and her team, and the UNIDO organizational team who have made this possible. I am both very pleased and very grateful for such a successful General Conference.

I wish you all the best for your future.

Thank you very much.