

**Statement by H.E. Debora Lepre, Permanent Representative of Italy,
under agenda item 3 - ‘DG’s Annual report’**

Madame President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I wish to **congratulate you, Madam President, on your election** and I wish you all success in guiding the 52nd session of the Industrial Development Board. You will have full support and cooperation from Italy. I wish also to **thank Ambassador Mofadal Elnour of Sudan** for successfully leading the Board in the past session.

Italy fully **aligns with the statements delivered by the European Union and the WEOG**. I wish to add some considerations in **my national capacity**.

Italy values **the Annual Report** presented by the Director General. We acknowledge the remarkable increase in the **operativity** of the Organization, both in terms of resource mobilization and technical cooperation delivery. We welcome the **positive engagement of the DG in reaching out to non-Member States, international financial institutions and the private sector**.

We **share the priorities set by the DG** and believe that they are consistent with the key objective of pursuing sustainable industrial development in least developed countries, developing countries and middle-income economies, embracing **all geographical areas of the world**.

President,

Italy takes note of the **observations made by the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight as well as of the Report of the Oversight Advisory Committee**. We appreciate the constructive response by the management to the remarks of the evaluators.

We are confident that in the **right dialogue between the management, the independent evaluation bodies, the Member States and all the stakeholders**, lies the right direction towards a greater efficiency and effectiveness of UNIDO, in line with the objectives and the path already undertaken by the Director General.

President,

Italy appreciates **UNIDO’s strong commitment to gender equality**, which will be reaffirmed once again later this evening, at the reception hosted by the DG, **launching the 16 days of activism against violence against women**.

Italy contributes, among other inputs, with the **exhibition of the Italian artist Giulia Neri**. I invite everyone to enjoy these artworks.

We encourage the Secretariat to continue its efforts to **mainstream a gender perspective in every activity** and with regard to the internal governance. In this context, allow me to wish Aurelia Calabrò all success in her new endeavor as Head of the Gender Unit: *“In bocca al lupo, cara Aurelia!”*

President,

Together with Sudan and all other African friends, **Italy promoted the establishment of the Group of Friends of Food Security in Vienna**. I thank all the Member States which already joined the Group, inviting the others to offer also their valuable contribution. I also thank DG Muller and UNIDO for the collaborative spirit they showed from the very beginning for this initiative.

About financial dynamics, Italy has remained consistent in the last years in **supporting concrete proposals to improve budget efficiency and flexibility** for UNIDO, as well as a prompter procedure to deal with UBs.

We welcome the consensus reached on the interim decision on vertical flexibility and we are ready to work with the Secretariat and the Membership to advance further along this route. Anyway, the first way to guarantee a sound financial situation for the Organization is to secure that assessed contributions are paid in full and on time.

Finally,

We have a crucial year ahead of us, which will lead us to the next General Conference in Riyadh.

During his first term, DG Müller has sailed on the open sea. To stay on course, the captain needs the constructive cooperation of the Member States. Italy remains on board: **we have supported the Director General until today, we will support him in the coming months and in the election for his second mandate.**

Thank you, Madame Chair.