



## Malta Statement at 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of UNIDO Industrial Development Board – Agenda item 3

Delivered by Mr. Joseph Debono, 25 November 2024

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Madam President,

Let me start by congratulating you and the rest of the Bureau on your election while assuring you of our delegation's full support. I would also like to thank Ambassador Magdi Ahmed Mofadal Elnour of Sudan for his skillful leadership during the past year.

Firstly, I wish to underline that Malta fully aligns with the EU statement. I would also like to make some remarks in our national capacity. Malta welcomes the report of DG Müller and his active role in promoting inclusive, clean and green industrial development towards the implementation of SDG 9. We thank him for his tireless efforts in enhancing cooperation between industrialized countries and both least developed countries and developing countries over the past three years.

Malta also welcomes the announcement by DG Müller for his availability for a second term and would like to express our strong support for his candidacy. We welcome UNIDO's substantial increase in mobilizing financial resources for technical cooperation by 44 percent in 2023 as well as the successful 25 percent increase of TC implementation.

For Malta, Africa's sustainable growth and regional stability are strategic priorities. We underscore the necessity of support for Africa's industrial development, with the aim of it being economically viable,



environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive and resilient to meet current and future challenges. We are confident that UNIDO is best placed to foster the relevant partnerships, coordinate with other relevant UN entities and organise joint initiatives in favour of industrialization through the IDDA 3 programme.

In this regard, Malta also underlines the pivotal role of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in enhancing regulatory alignment and capacity building for SMEs in Agro-processing, Automotives, Pharmaceuticals as well as in Transport and Logistics and for its commitments towards inclusivity ensuring effective participation and benefits for women and youths under the continental trade agreement.

Malta is convinced that progress in these areas is only possible, if we address the cross-cutting issue of gender equality and empowerment, which we welcome as a clear strategic priority for UNIDO. Gender equality must be prioritised across all areas of governance as a fundamental prerequisite for sustainable socio-economic transformation across the continent. Having equal opportunities is often not enough to achieve this goal. Providing women and girls, but also men and boys with the best knowledge, values, and skills to tackle gender disparities is a precondition for an inclusive sustainable future. We particularly encourage women's economic empowerment and their roles in building resilient and peaceful communities.

In conclusion, Malta is looking forward towards contributing and shaping the 'Riyadh Declaration', a key document for UNIDO's 2025 General Conference outlining the strategic direction and priorities for



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TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY  
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future global industrial development policies aiming at effective, comprehensive, and sustainable implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you, Madam President!