



UNIDO Industrial Development Board (IDB) 52nd session

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Nasr
Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic Egypt
to the United Nations Organizations in Vienna

Agenda Item 3

Annual Report of the Director General for 2023

Madam President,

1. Allow me at the outset to congratulate Your Excellency *Ambassador Dr. Gabriela Sellner*, for chairing the 52nd session of the Industrial Development Board and the members of the bureau for their election.
2. Egypt also takes this opportunity to express its appreciation for the efforts of the outgoing Chair **His Excellency Ambassador Magdi Ahmed Elnour, Permanent Representative of Sudan** as well as his bureau for a sterling work done at previous Session.
3. Egypt aligns itself with the statements of the Group of 77 & China, the African Group and the Arab Group, and would like to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

Madam President

4. Egypt welcomes the introductory remarks of H.E. the Director General, and commends his work and the tireless efforts his distinguished team exerted to support developing countries, including Egypt, in attaining inclusive and sustainable industrial development.



5. The partnership between Egypt and UNIDO has been going for decades, and the signature of the Program for Country Partnership (PCP) agreement in April 2021 represented a milestone in the deep-rooted cooperation between Egypt and the organization with 23 projects under implementation totaling more than US\$ 51 million, covering various areas of cooperation under PCP Egypt, including developing industrial strategies and policies, capacity building programs, supporting SMEs, enhancing green hydrogen exports, increasing circular economy practices, and promoting sustainability in various value chains and sectors.
6. Egypt is looking for expediting the process of finalizing other projects under the PCP and strongly encourages UNIDO to further explore additional avenues for mobilizing funds, aiming at the full implementation of the targeted projects and programs.
7. In this regard, Egypt welcomes the commencement of the “TIGARA” project, financed by the European Union, which focuses on supporting the government's efforts to strengthen cooperation among SMEs.

Madam President

8. Egypt commends H.E. Mr. Gerd Muller on the increase of funds mobilized in 2023 by 44% compared to 2022 and highly appreciates the efforts of the Director General concerning resource mobilization, which enables the organization to achieve the 25% annual increase in technical cooperation target. Egypt notes the increase in demand for UNIDO services, including in relation to industrial decarbonization and green hydrogen, food security, sustainable supply chains and circular economy.



9. Egypt further commends UNIDO's endeavors in attaining gender equality and the empowerment of women within the context of attaining inclusive and sustainable industrial development, and recalls as well the divergent views expressed by Member States regarding the "UNIDO operational strategy for gender equality and the empowerment of women 2024-2027". Egypt reiterates the importance of avoiding the usage of non-consensual and non-agreed terms in the reports and to use language that respects the cultural diversity of member States.
10. Egypt congratulates the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and UNIDO for holding the second version of the Multilateral Industrial Policy Forum last October, and expresses its confidence that the 21st session of UNIDO General Conference, to be held in Riyadh in November 2025, will be a successful conference, which will further enhance inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Before concluding Madam President,

11. Egypt condemns in the strongest possible terms the indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force by Israel in the Palestinian occupied territories, especially in Gaza, which has led to the death of almost 45 thousand innocent Palestinian, 70% of them are women and children. There must be full accountability for these crimes through international judicial mechanisms.
12. Israel's unequivocally condemned aggression further extended to Lebanon, with death toll exceeding 3800, and continues to draw the whole region into a spiral of escalations that pose a grave threat to international peace and security, and has its direct impact on the limited development gains previously achieved in the Palestinian territories.



13. Egypt considers these Israeli acts of aggression in Palestine and Lebanon blatant violations of international law and international humanitarian law.
14. Egypt will not tire in working with all parties to reach a cease fire, and realize an independent Palestinian State, its capital is East Jerusalem, and continues to exert every possible effort in this regard.
15. On the 2nd of December Cairo will host the International Conference on Humanitarian Assistance to Gaza, as a platform for mobilizing the international community's efforts to alleviate the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and discuss effective, immediate and concerted efforts with our partners to address this ongoing human tragedy.
16. The destruction inflicted on Gaza, and now in some parts of Lebanon, makes it uninhabitable for at least a decade. Reconstruction efforts are urgently needed. Egypt calls on UNIDO to be prepared to support the Palestinians and the Lebanese in the next phase to overcome this ordeal utterly and immediately.

Thank you, Madam President.