



Dear Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Welcome to the fifty-second session of UNIDO's Industrial Development Board!
- Thank you all for being here today. I am very glad to see you again.
- I would like to thank the outgoing President, His Excellency Ambassador Elnour of Sudan, for his successful leadership of the fifty-first session of the Board.
- And allow me to congratulate the incoming Bureau and its President, Her Excellency Ambassador Sellner of Austria, on your election.

- I look forward to working with you all.

Excellencies,

- Let me start by looking back at my own election, three years ago, in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It was an unprecedented global health crisis with a **devastating effect on economies worldwide**, followed by **increased** conflicts, **energy crisis** and **inflation**.
- The ILO estimates that the pandemic alone wiped out over 250 million jobs worldwide, mostly in developing countries.
- The poorest are affected the worst by all of it.
- In addition, the **impacts of climate change** are hitting developing countries the hardest.
- From Bangladesh, Brazil to Kenya from Spain to Chile, we are seeing the catastrophic effects of the climate crisis everywhere.
- In light of this situation, the decisions from Baku are absolutely disappointing.
- Alongside current challenges the global landscape of the future is changing fundamentally.

- In this context let me mention five megatrends that will shape the world by 2050:

1. Population growth:

Every year, the world's population grows by 80 million people, mostly in developing countries. Africa's population will double by 2050.

2. Food demand:

Global demand for food will rise by 50 per cent in the next 30 years.

3. Climate change and the future of energy:

The world energy demand will increase by 70 per cent by 2050.

4. Scarce resources:

Essential resources, particularly water and fertile soil, are becoming increasingly rare.

5. Job revolution:

Hundreds of millions of jobs are needed in developing countries by 2050 for the growing young population.

- In the face of these challenges, industrialization is a key part of the solution.
- To create hundreds of millions of jobs, to end hunger and poverty for a growing population.
- Developing countries need industrialization and economic growth of at least 7 to 10 per cent a year.

Excellencies,

- Significant potential for sustainable growth lies especially in the sectors:
 - Renewable Energy, Green Technologies and Digital Economy:
By 2030 over 20 million jobs could be created in the Global South.
 - Infrastructure Development and Urbanization:
Estimates suggest that this sector alone could contribute to the creation of more than 80 million new jobs in the next 10 to 20 years.
 - Agribusiness
Modernization, mechanization, digitalization is necessary to increase productivity and food security.
 - Health care, pharmaceutical industry, biotechnology:

A growing population needs medication, vaccines, a large growing market with millions of new jobs.

- The mining industry:
 - It holds enormous potential for economic development in the Global South. Millions of new jobs will be created within the next 10 years.
- Enormous investments in local added value are necessary in all sectors.
- The process of industrialization has been successfully demonstrated, for example, in China over the last 50 years, as well as in Botswana, Costa Rica, India, Mexico, Morocco, Viet Nam and other growth regions around the world.
- But I would also like to emphasize that focusing only on growth is wrong.
- What is needed is sustainable growth and sustainable industrialization.
- The key question is: How to decouple growth from CO2 emissions?
- Necessary is
 - Economic growth with fewer emissions;
 - With less resource consumption;
 - With less environmental pollution;
 - Less smog;
 - Less wastewater pollution and;
 - Less waste in the cities.
- The goal must be: Produce more with less emissions.
- This is possible with innovation and new technologies.
- There we need a new strategic approach of industrialization for the future.
- In 2025, UNIDO will focus on the future of industrialization and must strengthen its mandate.
- We will work together with you on a new strategy, on solutions and answers.
- How is it possible to bring clean electricity and energy to all?
- How to use AI as a Gamechanger for industrialization?
- How to develop and apply new technologies for decarbonization in agrotech, mobility, infrastructure and industry?
- Finally in Riyadh, at our General Conference, it is the plan to decide about a Riyadh Declaration – The future of industrialization 2050.
- But what is clear already today:
 - The countries of the Global South need huge investments technology and innovation transfers.
 - They need a new partnership of global solidarity.

- For this, the industrialized countries must fulfil their commitments.
- The 0.7 ODA goal, financing the loss and damage fund.
- Better access to the world finance system.
- Debt relief.
- Do we have the money for the necessary investments? Yes we do!
- One example: A global tax of 0.1 per cent on equity and bond trading worldwide could raise up to 500 billion dollars per year.
- A tax on global shipping of 100 dollars per ton of carbon dioxide could raise 80 billion dollars per year for a fund to strengthen the economy and industry of the Global South.
- I support Prime Minister Mia Mottley's Bridgetown Initiative.
- And it's not just about money. New concepts and technological innovations such as the New Green Deal Industrial Plan of the EU are important projects and show solutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- And where are we today?
- **2024 was a successful year for UNIDO:**
- New partners, new flagship projects, increased funds and delivery.
- This was only possible because of the **great support of our Member States**, UNIDO is now also in a **solid financial standing**, because of our last year budget decision, better than many other UN organizations.
- I am very grateful to our Member States for the **considerable increase in voluntary contributions**.
- **Net approvals** are up by **55 per cent this October compared to October of last year!** A total of 258 million dollars.
- Governments around the world have recognized that industry is a key part of the solution to address global challenges. We get more and more support from our funding partners.
- 2024 will show a **historic record of funding**. Thank you to our Member States and major funding partners.
- A great success is the enormous increase in TC over the last three years. **Last year by 25%**, and we are reaching a 25 % increase again this year. The same is planned for the next year.

- That makes it possible to extend our projects and cooperations with Member States.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- We have also **successfully expanded** our work with **private investors, the business sector**.
- Last year alone, our new approach resulted in **29 new partnerships**.
- And I am very glad that we have now intensified our work with the **GCF and the Adaptation Fund**. That opens new opportunities for the future in this important sector of climate protection.
- And finally, we welcomed three new Member States – Palau, South Sudan and Solomon Islands!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Over the last years we undertook important reforms to **strengthen UNIDO**.
- We have reformed our organizational structure to make it more **responsive, efficient, and impact oriented**.
- And we have reformed our **field structure** for **better representation and delivery on the ground**.
- Thanks to our dedicated DDG Ms. Haidara and her team.
- Our ambitious reforms were only possible because of our motivated staff.
- And here I want to stress that it is important for me that we take care of our staff, listen to their views and find out:
 - What can we do better?
- I very much welcome constructive criticism and ideas, both internally and externally.
- I am in an open discussion with our Staff Council and all the committees.
- And I also have regular meetings with all regional groups.
- Modernization is an ongoing process, and it also requires optimizing our internal governance mechanisms.
- The whole Leadership Team takes the recommendations of the recent EIO Governance Review very seriously and is committed to working closely with them. Thanks for the report and advice.

- In response, we are already finalizing concrete Management Action Plans to immediately address the findings.
- As an example, we are working on reforming our central committees.
- An important step to improve our internal governance was taken in June by setting up a **new Directorate**.
- Under the leadership of our experienced colleague **Ms Cecilia Ugaz**, this Directorate focuses on improving **strategic planning and programming** across UNIDO.
- With our new Managing Director, and also our new Chief of the LAC Bureau from Brazil, we have taken a step to further strengthen the **regional representation**, and **gender parity** among our staff.
- It is important to me to strengthen and expand the representation of GRULAC and G77 including African countries in important functions.
- We have increased the proportion of women in our professional P, L, and D staff from **37 to 42 per cent** in the last months.
- And regarding gender equality in our work on the ground: **73 per cent** of our new projects have a gender focus.

Excellencies,

- For me, also our normative function is an essential key priority.
- So I am very proud that we are a main partner for the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area with our **Africa Trade Competitiveness and Market Access Programme**.
- We work on standards for responsible mining with our new **Global Alliance for Responsible and Green Minerals**, and we are working on standards for sustainable fair value chains.
- In all these sectors, we offer you support for **capacity building** in your countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Our mission is: we are service providers, partners for you, our Member States.
- We continue to develop with your advice and support.

- I have learned a lot and I am very grateful for the great support I receive from you all and the UNIDO-Team.
- At this point I would like to thank my competent and motivated team.
- Our DDGs and Managing Directors:
Mr. Ciyong Zou
Mr. Yuko Yasunaga
Ms. Fatou Haidara
Ms. Cecilia Ugaz Estrada
Mr. Gunther Beger
My Chief of Cabinet
- And the entire team of UNIDO.
- Only together we are successful!

Excellencies,

- The election process starts after the IDB. It is an open process with clear rules.
- I am very pleased to inform you first, that the German Government has decided to nominate me for a second term once the process is open.
- It is the decision of you, of the UNIDO Member States, and I highly respect the due processes in place.
- I assure you that I am committed and motivated for another four years.
- For me it would be a great honour to continue this important and responsible work as Director General of UNIDO.
- I wish us all a successful fifty-second session of the Industrial Development Board.

Thank you so much.