

Finland's statement at UNIDO IDB

Agenda item 3

Madam President,

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. Let me share a few remarks in our national capacity.

Firstly, allow me to congratulate you on your election, Madam President. Finland assures its full support to your work.

I would also like to recognize the outgoing President, His Excellency, The Ambassador of Sudan, and the bureau for their excellent service.

Finland welcomes the announcement by UNIDO Director General Müller of his availability for a second term. DG Müller, you have our support.

We also welcome the achievements of UNIDO in 2023, outlined in your report, and look forward to our continuing cooperation.

Finland reiterates its condemnation of the unprovoked and unjustified military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Russia's war has had tragic repercussions well beyond Ukraine and Europe, especially on global food and energy security.

Colleagues,

I am pleased to note that in terms of gender parity, women now make up to 45 percent of UNIDO staff. However, work needs to continue to increase the share of women in senior positions.

We encourage UNIDO to continue promoting gender equality and women's empowerment within the organization and in its technical cooperation.

Sufficient and predictable funding from UNIDO's regular budget should be ensured for Gender Division's activities.

I am honoured to act as a co-chair, together with Her Excellency, Elena Maria Freije Murillo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Honduras, of the UNIDO Group of Friends for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. This year, the group has discussed an initiative on founding a special day for celebrating women's contribution to industrial development. We are excited about the idea and look forward to introducing it to the larger membership of UNIDO.

Distinguished delegates,

We face grave environmental challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss. Circular economy ensures that we make the best use possible of our limited resources. I am pleased that Circular Economy is a priority for UNIDO.

I am excited to announce that the EU Circular Economy Resource Centre will start operations next year in Finland. It is a joint initiative of the EU Commission, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra and Enabel of Belgium. The Centre will cooperate particularly with developing countries to share the best practices in circular economy. It will offer opportunities for cooperation with UNIDO as a key partner.

Colleagues,

One of the strengths of UNIDO is its cooperation with the private sector to address key development challenges.

I am pleased to announce that Finland will be supporting sustainability of value chains in the cacao sector in Ecuador and skills-development in the machinery sector in India.

The technical cooperation will be implemented in cooperation with the private sector in Finland and in the partner countries.

Distinguished participants,

I would already like to take this opportunity to thank Saudi Arabia for hosting the General Conference next year in Riyadh.

I hope that it will provide an opportunity for UNIDO to showcase its cooperation with the private sector and to strengthen it further. Sustainable industrial development requires everybody's contribution.

Thank you very much.