

Statement by the Government of Sweden

Agenda item 3: Annual Report of the Director General
52nd session of the Industrial Development Board (IDB)
United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
Vienna, 25-27 November 2024

Thank you Madam President,

First, let me congratulate you, Ambassador Sellner, on your election as President of the IDB. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing President, Ambassador Elnour of Sudan, and the other bureau members for their important efforts.

[Let me also express Sweden's full support for Director General Gerd Müller's candidacy for a second term.]

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. We would like to add the following in our national capacity.

Mdm President,

Sweden is one of the largest donors of UNIDO's programmes and projects. Sweden believes that strong multilateral cooperation coupled with national plans and reforms, domestic resource mobilization and innovative private investments is critical to achieve the SDGs. UNIDO's support to member states with regards to capacity building and technical assistance to support sustainable industrial development is highly relevant in this regard.

We thank the Director General for his presentation of the annual report. Sweden welcomes initiatives aimed at accelerating climate action and the use of renewable energy; creating a world without hunger; and promoting fair and sustainable supply chains. These are key areas where UNIDO's expertise and experience bring an added value. We must however underline that UNIDO's work cannot be seen in isolation from the crime of aggression perpetrated by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, with devastating consequences, including to the global food crisis. The illegal war of aggression by the Russian Federation is a flagrant violation of the UN charter and international law. We reiterate our strong condemnation of Russia's actions.

Mdm President,

Sweden places great value on UNIDO's operations being efficient, result-oriented, long-term and transparent, with robust systems for accountability, internal governance and control. The Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight plays an indispensable role in this regard. We appreciate the work already undertaken to develop UNIDO's performance management, including reporting, follow-up, risk management and evaluation, and look forward to further efforts in this regard.

Let me finally commend the progress made by UNIDO regarding gender mainstreaming throughout the organization's operations. Advancing gender equality is critical to achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development. We encourage UNIDO to continue its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, including through enhancing efforts to reach gender parity at all levels.

I thank you for your attention.