

NORWAY. Statement Item 3: UNIDO. IDB, 25 November 2024.

**President,**

**I would like to congratulate your Excellency Ms. Gabriela Sellner, Ambassador of Austria, on your election as the President of the IDB and assure you of our full support. I thank the outgoing President, His Excellency Mr. Magdi Ahmed Mofadal Elnour, Ambassador of Sudan, for his dedicated work.**

**Norway fully aligns itself with the statement made by Japan on behalf of the WEOG Group.**

**President,**

**Norway is appreciative of the efforts of UNIDO and the Director General. We particularly appreciate the continued efforts of the DG to transform UNIDO's actions into results. We commend UNIDO for its successful and efficient delivery of work, while keeping in mind our expectations for UNIDO to further enhance the quality of its projects.**

**In this regard, we welcome the announcement by UNIDO Director General Gerd Müller that he is available for a second term, and express our full and strong support for his candidacy.**

**We appreciate the Director General's commitment to tackling key challenges such as poverty and hunger, the energy transition and building**

**stronger and more sustainable international value chains, as part of UNIDO's actions to foster sustainable industrial development, achieve SDG 9 and contribute to the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals. With just five years to go until 2030, we must accelerate our common efforts to reach the SDGs, while implementing our new joint commitments from the Pact for the Future.**

**Strengthening global food security is a top priority for Norway. In this context and beyond, we continue to condemn the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, which has exacerbated food and energy crises, affecting in particular the most vulnerable States. We stand in full solidarity with the Ukrainian people.**

**Norway acknowledges the outcomes of the evaluation and internal oversight activities, and requests the Director General to timely address the recommendations, and to keep the Member States informed of their implementation.**

**President,**

**Today is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.**

**Gender equality and the empowerment of women is a key priority for Norway, and we call upon UNIDO to mainstream a gender perspective**

**across all activities, to enhance the role of women in industry and to improve capacity to develop and implement gender-transformative policies and programmes.**

**Important progress has been made in this regard. We note with appreciation that in 2023, 53 % of programmes contributed explicitly or uniquely to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, and 70 % of programmes were rated satisfactory regarding mainstreaming gender considerations. This progress has been recognized by UN Women.**

**We are pleased that the Gender Unit has been upgraded to a Division, with a newly appointed Director and Gender Coordinator. Providing sufficient and predictable funding from the regular budget for the Division is an important next step.**

**Furthermore, we urge UNIDO to re-double the efforts to achieve gender parity at all levels, especially at the senior professionals level.**

**Finally, Madam President, let me once again express Norway's support for UNIDO. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development is more relevant than ever to tackle the global challenges the world faces from eradicating poverty and hunger to fighting climate change.**

**Thank you.**