

UNIDO – 52nd Industrial Development Board

Statement by Ms Helge Elisabeth Zeitler,

Director

**German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation
and Development**

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Agenda Item 3 – Annual Report

Thank you, Chair,

Excellencies, Director-General, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Germany fully supports the statement made by the European Union and its member states. In particular, we fully support the EU remarks on Russia's position on the Black Sea ports.

Now, I would like to add the following comments in my national capacity:

Germany is looking forward to contributing to fruitful exchanges of views and to sustainable results of this IDB.

The priorities of my Ministry align well with UNIDO's guiding principles, in particular a just transition to sustainable and inclusive economic patterns in our partner countries, and fighting poverty, hunger and inequality. Germany wishes to assure UNIDO of its continued support.

In the 2023 Annual Report and its appendices, we are glad to see a number of positive signs:

- most of the results-based budgeting indicators were fulfilled,
- voluntary funds mobilised for Technical Assistance were record-high,
- 21% of TAs are South-South or triangular cooperation.

- The Annual Report not only points out numbers, it also describes many project examples and political work streams. To name just one: UNIDO's new international standards methodology to assess greenhouse gas emissions relating to the production and use of hydrogen.

The documents also mention a less encouraging number: the voting rights of 54 Member States have been suspended because of incomplete assessed contributions.

Additionally, gender balance has improved, but it needs to become even better.

Chair, Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me now turn briefly to our bilateral cooperation with UNIDO.

Currently the German government is supporting several of UNIDO's projects and programmes, in a number of African countries (creating decent jobs, producing pharmaceuticals and vaccines) and in Ukraine (economic recovery with an emphasis on SMEs).

In the 2023 Annual Report and its appendices, we were proud to see that Germany, with expenditures of 8 million US dollars, is one of the highest-ranking voluntary national donors for UNIDO. Based on commitments, Germany was indeed the largest national donor, with an additional 21.6 million US dollars committed for the "Partnership for Net Zero Industry", which was launched during the COP Climate Conference in Dubai last year.

This Partnership will support selected countries in developing their industry decarbonisation roadmaps and policy frameworks, it will structure pipelines of bankable projects linked to available financing opportunities, and it will foster

dialogue and international collaboration to accelerate the transition towards net-zero industries.

Additionally, Germany is supporting UNIDO's role as the Secretariat of the Global Matchmaking Platform of the Climate Club with an additional 3.25 million US dollars. UNIDO is an important partner of the G7 Climate Club and, through the Platform, it will facilitate the alignment, coordination and matchmaking of existing international technical and financial assistance with the requests from emerging markets and developing economies for support in regard to industrial decarbonisation.

Moreover, it is interesting to note that increasing cooperation is taking place directly between UNIDO and the German implementing agency GIZ (in Morocco, Senegal and Uzbekistan). A new Memorandum of Understanding between UNIDO and GIZ is about to be signed today.

Chair,

Let me conclude by saying that, with the leadership of Director-General Gerd Müller and the dedicated work of its staff, UNIDO is on a good path to fulfil its mission. Germany will remain a strong partner for UNIDO.

Germany fully supports Director-General Müller's willingness to run for a second term. It was decided by the German government that we will present Director-General Müller's nomination to the president of this IDB soon, and I was pleased to hear that there is full support from the European Union, as my European colleague has just stated. Mr Müller has led UNIDO on an innovative path, on a more inclusive path and on a broader path, with new commitments and new partnerships. I'd like to respectfully ask the Member States to take this into consideration when planning their votes.

Thank you, Chair.