



**G-77 and China statement during
the 52nd session of the Industrial Development Board,
25-27 November 2024,
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

**Item 3 - Annual report of the Director General for 2023: (a) Managing for results:
Update on the implementation of the medium-term programme framework 2022-
2025**

Thank you, Madam President,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to congratulate you, Her Excellency Ambassador Gabriela Sellner, on your election as President of this 52nd session of the IDB. I also congratulate the other members of the Bureau for their election. The Group is confident that under your able leadership, this session will lead to productive outcomes that will strengthen the role of UNIDO in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

2. The Group would also like to thank His Excellency Ambassador Magdi Ahmed Mofadal Elnour, Permanent Representative of Sudan, President of the 51st session and members of the Bureau for their hard work and dedication during the previous session.

3. The Group welcomes the accession of Palau, Solomon Islands and South Sudan as new Member States, thereby strengthening UNIDO's global presence and impact.

4. We take note of the introductory remarks by the Director General, Mr. Gerd Müller, on the activities and achievements of UNIDO and reaffirm our commitment to UNIDO's mandate; we look forward to fruitful discussions and constructive engagement throughout this session, with the aim of advancing our shared objectives for sustainable and resilient industrial growth.

Madame President,

5. Regarding the UNIDO Annual Report for 2023, the Group of 77 and China takes note of document IDB.52/2-PBC.40/2, which presents notable advancements in fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development amid global challenges. The Group acknowledges the efforts of UNIDO and its Director General, Mr. Gerd Müller, in guiding the Organization's transformation, enhancing its ability to mobilize resources, support Member States, and address evolving needs in sustainable industrialization.

6. The Group acknowledges the substantial 44% increase in resource mobilization for technical cooperation in 2023, amounting to \$328.4 million. This growth, supported by strategic contributions from partners like the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Fund for the Montreal Protocol, strengthens UNIDO's role in assisting Member States. We also recognize the 25% increase in technical cooperation delivery,

reflecting donors' sustained confidence in UNIDO's capacity to drive sustainable development. The Group requests in this regard, the implementation of the OAC recommendation that technical cooperation delivery must be linked to the actual implementation of projects and programs and that the best indicator to measure this is the actual expenditure of TC projects and programs, and TC delivery should be measured by qualitative targets.

7. The Group emphasizes that the GEF resources shall be made available to all Member States without discrimination. In this regard, the Group requests UNIDO to make outmost effort to ensure that these resources will be available for all its members.

8. The Group remains strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and to avoid promulgating and imposing any unilateral coercive measures and actions on developing countries not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, is essential to improve solidarity, international cooperation framework and reinforce States' capabilities in accordance with their national priorities and goals.

9. The Group commends UNIDO's role in supporting Member States, upon request, regarding the appropriate measures pertaining to decarbonization and environmentally sustainable practices in key industrial sectors including through the Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI), which promotes sustainable technologies in the steel and cement industries. The commitments made by various economies to increase demand for low-emission materials under the IDDI at COP28 represent a significant step towards reducing emissions in carbon-intensive sectors, and we encourage UNIDO to continue expanding this initiative.

10. The Group firmly believes that adequate, sustainable, effective and demand-driven technical and material assistance, transfer of technology, and provision of equipment, as well as sharing lessons learned and best practices, are key to the fair energy transition and sustainable industrial development. In this regard, the Group emphasizes that States that are in need of such support, shall be assisted to ensure that sustainable development will be achieved by all without discrimination.

11. We acknowledge UNIDO's work in promoting sustainable global and regional supply chains, including through digital technologies and artificial intelligence solutions. These efforts foster sustainability in production processes and assist Member States in meeting international standards.

Equitable Geographical Distribution of UNIDO Personnel

12. The Group reiterates its long-standing request for improvements in the equitable geographical distribution of UNIDO personnel, especially at senior and management levels. We again request an update on the impact of structural reforms within the Secretariat, including their influence on staff morale and geographic representation. We believe that equitable distribution is essential to reflect the diversity of Member States and foster greater inclusion.

13. The Group also reaffirms the importance of guaranteeing predictable, sufficient, and varied funding to support the organization's long-term financial sustainability. We encourage UNIDO to continue exploring innovative and diversified funding sources,

including voluntary contributions and dedicated financial resources, to ensure the effective and continuous fulfillment of its mandate. We look forward to receiving an update on initiatives undertaken in this direction.

Expansion of Country Programmes (PCPs) and South-South Cooperation

14. To promote global development, the Group encourages UNIDO to consider strengthening existing and developing new Country Programmes (CPs) and Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) with a view to implementing more projects on agri-food industry, food security, industrial upgrading and adding value to products with high export potential so as to benefit the Global South. We also encourage UNIDO to intensify its efforts to expand these programmes and strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation to enhance collaboration and knowledge-sharing among developing countries.

15. The Group of 77 and China recognizes UNIDO's significant progress in promoting equitable opportunities, particularly in the inclusion of women and youth across its programs. The positive impact seen in the Middle East and North Africa region, where more women entrepreneurs are establishing successful businesses, serves as a valuable model. We encourage UNIDO to continue these impactful initiatives and extend them to all regions to promote inclusive and sustainable development.

16. The Group emphasizes the importance of promoting gender balance and gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEEW) in line with national laws and within the context of ISID, and in this regards welcomes the substantial 50% surge in projects directly addressing gender-related issues in 2023 and UNIDO's programmes and activities undertaken in the developing countries. The Group encourages the Director General to allocate sufficient resources to ensure the achievement of the GEEW-related results and targets.

17. The Group notes the divergent views of Member States of the Organization regarding the "UNIDO operational strategy for gender equality and the empowerment of women 2024-2027" and stresses that the Reports of UNIDO shall use language that respects the cultural diversity of Member States.

Madame President,

18. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the critical findings raised in document the Assurance Review on UNIDO's Internal Governance Mechanisms, published on 5 November 2024, highlighting the need for immediate improvements in aligning the organization's purpose with its governance practices and daily operations. We note significant deficiencies in strategic direction, inter-divisional coordination, and clarity around the Director General's priorities, especially in key areas like clean energy, climate action, food security, and sustainable supply chains. The Group notes the management response annexed to the aforementioned document, including the commitment to further elaborate the needed measures, in particular through the ongoing formulation and update of management action plans, to address the findings and observations from this review. We also request additional periodic progress reports to ensure the implementation of the recommendations introduced by the External Auditor, the independent Oversight Advisory Committee and the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight.

19. The Group welcomes the revitalization of the Multilateral Diplomatic Committee (MDC). We are looking forward to its activities along with the resolution establishing the Committee.

20. The Group also welcomes the launch of the Group of Friends of Food Security in Vienna, co-chaired by Sudan and Italy, and calls upon UNIDO and Member States to support the activities of this Group, including by providing more resources and targeted investments to the agenda of food security, in accordance with UNIDO's mandate.

Thank you, Madam President.