

**Statement of the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) at the  
fifty-second session of the Industrial Development Board (IDB)  
delivered by H.E. Atsushi Kaifu, Ambassador and Permanent  
Representative of Japan  
Agenda item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2023**

Madam President,

On behalf of the Western European and Others Group I would like to congratulate your Excellency Ms. Gabriela Sellner, Ambassador of Austria, on your election as the President of the Industrial Development Board and assure you of full support of the Group. I also thank the outgoing President, His Excellency Mr. Magdi Ahmed Mofadal Elnour, Ambassador of Sudan, and other Bureau members for their dedicated work.

1. The Western European and Others Group takes note of the statement made by the Director General and the Annual Report for 2023, IDB.52/2.
2. The Group takes note the activities of the Director General in

2023 as well as his continuous efforts to transform UNIDO's actions into results. We commend UNIDO for its successful and efficient delivery of work, keeping in mind our expectations for UNIDO to further enhance the quality of its projects, in co-responsibility with donors and beneficiary Member States.

3. The Group reaffirms the importance of UNIDO's mandate to accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), to progress towards SDG 9 and to contribute to the achievement of the other SDGs.
4. We recognize the DG'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. These challenges affect all regions of the world, especially developing countries, middle-income countries and least developed countries.
5. We stress the crucial role that UNIDO has in addressing inequalities, sustainability challenges and lagging innovation

processes in industrializing countries, recognizing that middle-income economies are a driving force for sustainable development on a global scale.

6. We underline the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and appreciate the emphasis on this from the DG and the achievements of the Gender Unit, now the Gender Division. We encourage UNIDO to continue to mainstream a gender perspective and promote women's participation in all activities, including in the internal governance of and leadership positions of the Organization.
7. We also recognize the necessity of stakeholder engagement and partnerships for achieving development results. The consultative status of non-governmental and other organizations will allow UNIDO to reflect their views on industrial development in global debates, which will make its work more inclusive, diverse and effective.
8. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of the work by the Office of Evaluation and Internal

Oversight on the Assurance Review of the Internal Governance Mechanism of UNIDO. We note with satisfaction that the external quality assessment of the internal audit function was completed at the end of May 2024, obtaining the highest possible rating, and would like to reiterate decision IDB.51/Dec. 10, which requested UNIDO to ensure transparent, sustainable and predictable funding for the independent evaluations and internal oversight functions.

9. We also welcome the fact that Management is committed to working closely with EIO to implement its recommendations, acknowledging at the same time the full right of the management team to define the priorities and the lines of conduct for the Organization, in consultation with Member States and within the Organization's mandate.
10. We appreciate the efforts put in by the DG towards creating an effective internal structure for UNIDO and look forward to its completion. We take note, in this regard, of the significant efforts which have been undertaken by the Director General and

senior management to ensure the financial sustainability of human resource budgets.

11. Furthermore, the Group notes with satisfaction Management's acknowledgement of the need to further strengthen governance structures and complete the reform of field offices in its response to the Report of the Oversight Advisory Committee's recommendations to conduct an evaluation of the reforms as well as to take steps to garner greater staff involvement in the process.

12. To conclude, we thank the Director General for his willingness to run for a second term and we support his commitment to engaging with the membership through open dialogue and periodical meetings with regional groups.