



**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 8 - Climate neutral industry and circular economy**

Thank you, Madam President,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the updates provided by the Director General on UNIDO's activities related to climate neutrality and the circular economy. We recognize the significant steps taken by UNIDO to advance these priorities, including the development of an action plan for the implementation of the UNIDO Climate Change Strategy. We welcome the establishment of an inter-directorate task force to coordinate this action plan.
2. The Group welcomes the endorsement of UNIDO's strategy in response to climate change during the 51st session of the Industrial Development Board and takes note of the ongoing work regarding the development of an action plan for this strategy in consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders, in particular Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund.
3. The Group underscores that the action plan shall be guided by the low-greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development principle, and enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and coordination of UNIDO's activities in support of Member States climate priorities related to the Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development.
4. The Group supports the strategy's aims of enhancing UNIDO's role in arranging an adequate, sustainable and predictable financing and transfer of clean and innovative technologies to the developing countries, providing a platform for investment mobilization and climate partnerships and fostering South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation to enable the transfer, early adoption and implementation of climate related technologies and innovations, according to their national policies and priorities.
5. The Group expresses its concern regarding the introduction of climate change-related trade-restrictive measures, including border carbon taxes, which severely affect the smooth flow of industrial exports of developing countries. In this regard, the Group emphasizes that the envisaged action plan shall highlight the needed programs and activities to be undertaken to support developing countries in mitigating such measures.
6. We commend UNIDO for its ongoing efforts to integrate circular economy principles across diverse sectors and regions, demonstrated through initiatives like the SWITCH to Circular Economy Value Chains project. Such initiatives exemplify

UNIDO's capacity to facilitate the transition to sustainable industrial practices in developing economies, enhancing both environmental sustainability and economic resilience. We particularly note the importance of these initiatives to developing countries, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) who are on the front lines of climate change, and thus, would greatly benefit from such interventions.

7. We encourage UNIDO to take into account that many developing countries are producers of the critical minerals that can contribute to carbon neutrality, and that UNIDO can support the development of the value chain in order to contribute to their economic development.

8. The Group values the impact of the Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme, which has promoted circular economy practices and climate sustainability in seven countries with support from the Swiss government. This programme serves as an example of how circular approaches can make industrial parks more competitive and climate-responsible, advancing sustainable development.

9. The Group also values the collaboration between UNIDO and key partners, including the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, and the Green Climate Fund, to implement programs that address plastic waste, resource efficiency, and eco-industrial parks. These partnerships are crucial for mobilizing resources and technical expertise, enabling Member States to adopt innovative, low-carbon, and resource-efficient practices that duly take into account that industry in developing countries is not a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

10. The Group encourages UNIDO to continue facilitating knowledge exchange and capacity-building efforts on circular economy practices, particularly through regional dialogues and high-visibility events like the World Circular Economy Forum.

Thank you, Madam President.