

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE to be delivered at the 52th Session of the Industrial Development Board (25-27 November 2024)

Agenda Item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2023

We congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the 52th Industrial Development Board, and we extend our congratulations to all other members of the Bureau on their elections.

On this occasion, I would like to thank the outgoing Chair, His Excellency Mr. Magdi Ahmed Mofadal Elnour, and the other members, for their valuable and constructive work over since the last session.

Madam President,

I would like to thank the Director General for his comprehensive introductory statement, this morning.

First of all, I would like to stress that 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are integrated and indivisible in nature.

The 2030 Agenda is based on the premise that sustainable development is participatory, inclusive, and non-discriminatory, to ensure “no one is left behind”.

Strong ownership is a sine qua non for effective and timely implementation of the SDGs.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has deepened the existing inequalities, and consequently, rendered the achievement of 2030 Agenda even more challenging.

The impacts of climate change, escalating conflicts and geopolitical tensions further endanger development prospects as well as global food security.

Achieving the SDG2 (zero hunger) remains out of reach today.

Only 17% of the SDG targets are currently on track, with nearly half showing minimal or moderate progress, and over one-third stalled or regressing.

Without massive investment and scaled up action, the achievement of the SDGs will remain elusive.

The SDG investment gap in developing countries stands at around \$4 trillion per year.

Developing countries require more financial resources and fiscal space.

Besides considering the SDGs as a key input for its national development strategies and visions, Türkiye regards supporting the sustainable development efforts of vulnerable countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), as a foreign policy priority.

Hence, we expect the international community to increase its support to the United Nations Technology Bank, hosted by Türkiye, in its critical task of closing the digital gap between developed countries and the Least Developed Countries.

In this respect, we encourage further cooperation between UNIDO and the UN Technology Bank in this regard and call for donor support for its activities.

I would like to stress in the presence of the Director General that further cooperation between UNIDO and the UN Technology Bank would be undoubtedly beneficial for every relevant stakeholder.

Madam President,

We positively note UNIDO for its proactive engagement on critical global challenges, including climate change, energy transition, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and the circular economy.

We concur with the Director General's call to assist developing countries for enhancing their industry-specific targets and plans, ensuring the realization of a climate action as well.

On this occasion, we extend our congratulations to Azerbaijan for the successful organization of CoP29.

Madam President,

The UNIDO Centre for Regional Cooperation (UCRC) in Ankara plays an important role in providing the much-needed capacity building activities for experts from Central Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

We wish to express our support towards UNIDO's plans to expand its activities and projects in Central Asia with close cooperation with the Organization of Turkic States (OTS)

The signing of the Joint Declaration between UNIDO and the OTS is being planned.

We believe this milestone will provide an important framework of cooperation and collaboration between the two Organizations, in which Türkiye stands ready to contribute actively.

We believe that the UNIDO Centre for Regional Cooperation in Ankara is well-positioned to play an important role in this strengthened partnership. This would run in parallel with the future role to be assumed by the said office in its region.

On this occasion, we would like to underline our expectation that the field network reform process will also help the Türkiye country office to continue its support to the region in an enhanced manner.

Madame President

Efforts to implement equitable geographical representation and address the underrepresentation of professional staff from certain regions in UNIDO, particularly at the senior management level, require further commitment.

In this regard, we will continue to encourage qualified Turkish professionals and experts to apply for vacant positions within senior management level, here at the Headquarters, as well as in other offices.

Madame President,

The humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to be catastrophic.

2.3 million people in Gaza are under Israeli blockage and left alone with hunger, deprivation and death.

The Palestinians in the West Bank also continue to face violence and destruction. Israel's ground invasion and occupation in Lebanon as well poses a grave threat to security and stability regionally and internationally.

Each day, with no ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, we are closer than ever to a regional war.

A pathway to the two-state solution must be determined.

And UNIDO has an important role to play particularly with respect to assisting Palestinians in rebuilding the industrial infrastructure, if any left, amid the devastating circumstances.

Thank you