



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the 17th General Conference of the
UNIDO (Vienna, 27 November – 1 December 2017)**

Thank you Mr Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union, its 28 Member States and 11 aligned countries: Turkey[§], the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia^{*}, Montenegro^{*}, Serbia^{*}, Albania^{*}, Bosnia and Herzegovina^{*}, Norway⁺, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia.
2. On this memorable occasion I would like to address myself directly at our Director General Mr LI YONG. We want to warmly congratulate you on your re-election as Director General and are convinced that your strong and determined leadership has placed UNIDO firmly back on the international agenda as an organisation that helps realise the 2030 Agenda.
3. Among your many positive achievements, Director General, allow me to mention just a few:
 - Your constant and tireless commitment and that of your staff;
 - The recent improvements in UNIDO's governance and working methods;
 - The excellent substantive input to the High Level Political Forum;
 - The 2018-2019 Programme and Budget and the strategic priorities of the amended Medium Term Program Framework;
 - Your ideas to upscale the impact of UNIDO by means of Partnership Country Programs;
 - Your strong commitment to gender equality.
4. In conclusion, we are looking forward to the next 4 years of fruitful cooperation with you Director General, with your secretariat, and with all members of UNIDO and the international community.

Thank you, Chair.

§ Candidate Country

* Candidate Countries Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Norway is a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.