

**General Statement by the delegation of SWEDEN to the 17th session of the UNIDO
General Conference**

-27 November- 1 December 2017 -

Sweden is proud to have been a member of UNIDO since the founding of the organization. We are pleased to see that past 50 years of age, UNIDO is performing well and delivering value to industrial development efforts around the world.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is a priority for Sweden. It derives its strength from being universal. All UN Member States have committed to implementing the Agenda to promote development while protecting our planet. While the primary responsibility for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda lies with national governments, we need a global partnership and strong multilateral institutions to support the efforts of governments and other actors to implement the Agenda.

We also need effective and inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships, at all levels, across borders. In this regard, reforms of the UN Development System are necessary. Sweden strongly supports the UN Secretary-General's ambitious reform agenda. To strengthen the knowledge and expertise, and build on the know-how of the entire UN Development System, we believe involvement of all actors within the UN family, including the Specialized Agencies is required.

UNIDO has an important role in the implementation of the sustainable development goals, not least goal number 9. We appreciate the way that the Director-General has firmly positioned UNIDO in the SDG framework. We welcome further discussion between UNIDO and its Member States on how the organization can contribute further to the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

Over the last few years, Sweden has been one of the top five donors to UNIDO, with a strong focus on projects in Technical and Vocational Education and Training as well as standardization. These projects are highly appreciated, not least by industrial partners, including some of Sweden's biggest international corporations (*inter alia* Volvo, Scania, Tetra Laval). This buy-in from the private sector is a good example of what we mean by multi-stakeholder partnerships. It furthermore represents something of a unique quality of UNIDO – its ability and

willingness to partner with the private sector to move industrial development forward.

Sweden follows with interest the discussions at the General Conference and at the IDB regarding gender equality. In 2015, UNIDO adopted its first gender strategy, aiming at strengthening gender equality both in the services that UNIDO delivers, and within the organization itself. In September this year the UN Secretary-General presented a system-wide strategy on gender parity, setting the target to reach parity across all levels by 2026. Achieving gender parity in nominations is an absolute necessity, and Sweden strongly supports the Secretary-General's gender parity strategy. This effort must be paralleled by a sincere effort to also mainstream gender perspectives throughout all aspects of UN Development System work, normative as well as operational. It is clear that, unless we take more concerted action to empower women economically and politically, we will not reach the SDGs. We expect UNIDO to further strengthen its work in this field.

On the funding of UNIDO, Sweden shares the concern expressed by many. Firstly, the organization needs a tenable long-term balance between core funding and voluntary contributions. Secondly, we encourage UNIDO to explore ways of engaging with member states that have left the organization.

In closing, we underline the importance of continuous evaluation of the organization's performance as a key tool to ensure continuous learning, efficiency, and accountability.. It is crucial that the Evaluation function can continue to work as an independent entity, and that the vacant position of Director is filled.