



Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the 19th Session of the UNIDO General Conference, 29 November – 3 December 2021, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica

Welcome message for Mr. Gerd Müller, incoming Director General of UNIDO

Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I wish to convey our heartfelt congratulations and warmest welcome to Dr. Gerd Müller on his appointment as the new Director General of UNIDO by the 19th General Conference.
2. The Group recognizes that Dr. Müller comes in at a time when the whole world is still reeling from the devastating effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on our respective populations, economies, and industries, and he will definitely have his hands full to address the many urgent and diverse needs of UNIDO's Member States.
3. Nonetheless, the Group is confident and optimistic that the experience, skill, and dedication that Dr. Müller will bring to the job will allow UNIDO to face this and other present and future challenges more than adequately, and that the Organization will continue to deliver its mandate of inclusive and sustainable development to its stakeholders, particularly to middle-income and least-developed countries.
4. The Group invites the Director General to engage with the countries of the G-77 and China to better recognize and understand the differentiated and most pressing needs of developing countries.
5. The Group wishes to reassure Dr. Müller of our strong support during his tenure as Director General and we commit to keep working closely with UNIDO in addressing the priorities of our Member States.

Thank you, Mr. President.