



Statement by Gerd MÜLLER, UNIDO Director  
General at the G-77 Handover Ceremony on 26  
January 2023,  
Conference Room 1, C-building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is a great pleasure to be with you here today.
- First of all, let me congratulate Ambassador **Khokher** of Pakistan on his election as the Chairperson of the Group for 2023.
- I look forward to working with you and strengthening the cooperation between UNIDO and the G-77 under your leadership.
- I also want to thank Ambassador **Farhane** of Morocco for his strong leadership as Chairperson of the G-77 Vienna Chapter during 2022.
- Excellency, I wish you all the best for the future.
- At the G-77 Handover Ceremony in January last year, I promised to work closely with you. This was one of my very first engagements as UNIDO's new DG.

- I promised to be your partner working on the many challenges we face:
- **Climate change, poverty and hunger** are the most urgent issues to solve.
- Over the past year, the **energy crisis** and global inflation have created additional challenges.
- As always, the poorest are those **affected most**.
- A lot of progress has been made over the past decade.
- Industrialization lifted **millions of people** out of poverty.
- Now, we stand at the **midpoint** of the 2030 Agenda.
- I am very sad to say that we see setbacks on many fronts.
- This is why I call for “progress by innovation”, why I am **modernizing** UNIDO, and why I call for global **solidarity**.
- As the voice of your countries, I have raised issues critical to the G-77:

- at the G20 Summit in Indonesia (fair trade),
  - at the COP27 in Sharm-El Sheik (loss and damage finance),
  - and at the African Union Industrialization Summit in Niger (local manufacturing and value addition).
- UNIDO will continue to be a partner **at your side!**
  - Now we need to move to action based on your **needs and priorities.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The year 2023 is also the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Office of the G-77 Vienna Chapter.
- It has been hosted and financially supported by UNIDO since 1998.
- And UNIDO is committed to hosting the Office in the future!
- I welcome Ms. Crosby **Plaza** from **Venezuela.**

- She follows Anne-Marie Heuls to support the important work of the Vienna Chapter of the G-77.
- She will channel your ideas and priorities.

Excellencies,

- For UNIDO to do our important work effectively, we need **adequate** human and financial resources.
- 2022 was a year of reforms – we carried out an organizational restructuring and focused on a leaner management structure and greater efficiencies.
- 2023 will be **very important** to get UNIDO ready for the future.
- You will discuss the Programme and Budgets for the 2024-2025 biennium, at a time where also this Organization is **heavily affected** by increased costs.
- I look forward to the strong support of the G-77, to **your** strong support.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The G-77 countries are **most important** to UNIDO:

- Developing countries and emerging economies need international support to solve today's great challenges.
- **UNIDO is your voice and your partner!**
- I again congratulate you, Ambassador Khokher.
- I wish you every success. I look forward to working with you and the group
- Together we can achieve so much! Thank you.