



**Statement of the G-77 and China during the 53<sup>rd</sup> session  
of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO,  
30 June – 3 July 2025,  
delivered by H.E. Mr. Maurice Makoloo,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Kenya**

**Agenda Item 20: Recommendation of a candidate for the post of Director General**

Thank you, Mr. President.

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China allow me to congratulate you, Excellency, Mr. Mohammad Kamran Akhtar Malik, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, on your election as the President of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO, as well as other members of the bureau on their election.

2. The Group is confident that under your able leadership, this session will lead to productive outcomes that will strengthen the role of UNIDO in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

3. The Group would also like to thank Her Excellency Ambassador Gabriela Sellner, Permanent Representative of Austria, President of the 52<sup>nd</sup> session and members of the Bureau for their hard work and dedication during the previous session.

4. The Group takes note of the statement of the Director General Gerd Müller on the activities and achievements of UNIDO as well as his vision, commitments, and efforts for improving the governance of the Organization. We encourage UNIDO to continue working towards the full implementation of the Organization's mandate, to further assist developing countries to continue on the path towards economic and social prosperity through industrialization.

..... President,

5. The Group of 77 and China takes note of document IDB.53/31 on Candidates for the post of Director General. The Group would like to express its full support for the re-election of Dr. Gerd Müller for the post of Director General of UNIDO and further expresses its appreciation for his leadership and outstanding efforts throughout the past four years.

6. During his first term of office, Dr. Gerd Müller has guided the Organization with his dynamic leadership and has enhanced the support of the Organization for developing countries in realizing inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

7. He has managed to help the Organization to reposition itself to address the current and emerging industrial development-related challenges that developing countries are facing, especially in the fields of creating more jobs, access to markets, food security, climate action, and sustainable supply chains.

8. He also succeeded in increasing the technical cooperation delivery remarkably during the last four years and has explored new avenues for resource mobilization to ensure the sustainable work of the Organization, at a time when the world is facing a decline in the conventional financial support to development.

9. The Group is certain that Dr. Müller's re-election will provide an opportunity for the Organization to further benefit from his meritorious skills, and looks forward to further support for developing countries to be enhanced.

10. The Group of 77 and China remains fully committed to support UNIDO's work and endeavors in the years to come.

Thank you ..... President.

### **Agenda Item 3 - Annual report of the Director General for 2024.**

Thank you Mr. President.

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the Annual report of the Director General for 2024, which presents advancements in fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development amid global challenges.
2. The Group underscores the great importance it attaches to all the initiatives, activities, and programmes implemented or planned by the Organization during the period covered in the report, as they aim at promoting sustainable industrialization, increasing job opportunities, advancing economic competitiveness and market access, attaining food security, advocating fair and sustainable regional and global supply chains, strengthening regional integration, safeguarding the environment and mitigating climate change-related trade-restrictive measures, including border carbon taxes.
3. In this regard, the Group notes with appreciation UNIDO's efforts in the fields of providing industrial policy advisory and quality standards services, supporting agro-industrial parks, strengthening SMEs and start-ups, promoting circular economy, driving clean energy access and climate action and enhancing digitalization and innovation.
4. The Group also takes note of the Global Alliance on Artificial Intelligence for Industry and Manufacturing and recognizes the importance of bridging the digital divide between nations and industries, ensuring that no one is left behind in the AI revolution.
5. The Group acknowledges that funds mobilized by UNIDO in 2024 for technical cooperation reached a total of \$663.6 million and that the technical cooperation delivery increased by 29 per cent compared to 2023, reflecting donors' sustained confidence in UNIDO's capacity to drive sustainable development.
6. However, the Group notes that the technical cooperation delivery for the year 2024, as measured under IPSAS, amounted to €218.3 million in expenditure, compared to €241.6 million in 2023. It further notes that there is a cash balance of €846.1 million, compared to €420.2 million in 2023, for technical cooperation, which augurs well for the Organization's future implementation.
7. The Group encourages UNIDO to strengthen existing and develop new Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) with a view to implementing more projects, for example, on agri-food industry, food security, industrial upgrading and adding value to products with high export potential. The Group urges UNIDO to remain resolute in developing concrete and result-oriented partnerships with funding partners and recipient countries to effectively implement national programmes, Country Programmes (CPs) and PCPs.
8. The Group acknowledges the efforts regarding the establishment of 34 new or updated partnerships with the private sector, facilitating collaboration, availing knowledge-sharing, transfer of technology and resource mobilization for impactful projects and underscores the significance of public-private cooperation in advancing sustainable development goals. We also encourage UNIDO to continue strengthening partnerships, cooperation, knowledge-sharing and transfer of technology through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation.
9. The Group also reaffirms the importance of guaranteeing predictable, sufficient, and varied funding to support the Organization's long-term financial sustainability. We encourage UNIDO to continue exploring innovative and diversified funding sources. In this regard, the Group takes note of the launch of the Transformation Pathways Fund and IFETAA programme, and requests further information on the impact, implementation and progress of these initiatives, while stressing the need to expand the scope of beneficiaries.

10. The Group underscores trade and investment restrictive measures that undermine global trade order and global supply chain, diminish the benefits of trade, and weaken competitiveness hamper the efforts of Member States to diversify and modernize their industrial sectors and negatively affect multilateral cooperation.
11. The Group remains strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and avoiding the promulgation and imposition of any unilateral coercive measures and protectionist actions on developing countries not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, is essential to improve solidarity and international cooperation framework, safeguard the legitimate interests of all Member States, and reinforce capabilities to attain the Sustainable Development Goals.
12. The Group reiterates its long-standing request for improvements in the equitable geographical distribution of UNIDO personnel and transparency in the recruitment process, especially at senior and management levels. The Group, again, requests an update on the impact of structural reforms within the Secretariat, including their influence on staff morale and geographic representation. The Group believes that equitable distribution is essential to reflect the diversity of Member States and foster greater inclusion.
13. Additionally, the Group expresses its concern pertaining to the appointment of new employees from countries that officially withdrew from UNIDO, and in this regard, urges the recruitment of employees from UNIDO Member States.
14. The Group welcomes the ongoing collaboration between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and UNIDO regarding the preparations of the twenty-first session on the General Conference to be held in Riyadh from 23 till 27 November 2025.

Thank you, Mr. President.