



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China  
during the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the UNIDO General Conference,  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 23 - 27 November 2025,  
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane,  
Permanent Representative of Morocco**

**Item 6. Appointment of the Director General.**

Mr. President, H.E. Mr. Bandar bin Ibrahim Al-Khorayef, Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China allow me to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the UNIDO General Conference. In the same vein, I congratulate all the bureau members for their election. The Group is confident that under your leadership, we will have a very successful session and would like to assure you of its full support.
2. The Group also takes this opportunity to convey its special thanks to the outgoing President H.E. Ambassador Debora Lepre, Permanent Representative of Italy and the members of the bureau for their commendable work. The Group wishes to thank the Secretariat for the organization of this Conference.
3. The Group would also like to recognize the efforts of the Government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the warm hospitality and excellent facilities extended to make our work and stay in Riyadh fruitful and comfortable.
4. Taking the floor on this agenda item, the Group congratulates Dr. Gerd Müller for his reappointment as Director General of UNIDO for a second term. The Group expresses its appreciation for his leadership and outstanding efforts throughout the past 4 years.
5. 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.
6. During his tenure, the Organization repositioned 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.
7. Moreover, UNIDO has succeeded in increasing the technical cooperation delivery remarkably 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.

8. 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.

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

Thank you, Mr. President.