



Your Excellency Ambassador Kumaran,
Ambassador Rugene,
Colleagues from VBOs,
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

I am very happy to be gathered with you all here again today.

Let me start by thanking Ambassador Makoloo, Permanent Representative of Kenya, who led the G77 throughout 2025, and Ambassador Rugene, the Chargé d'Affairs since his departure in December.

Ambassador Kumaran, I am especially grateful for your new leadership and for India's particularly leading role.

Let us work together to launch new cooperation initiatives.

This Group is the strong force for economic growth and above all for giving developing countries a louder voice on the world stage.

This is more important than ever in a world where multilateralism is increasingly under pressure.

India's voice carries particular weight in this political environment.

Excellencies,

Since 1998 we have hosted the Vienna Chapter of the G77.

The G77 Office here at UNIDO headquarters is a strong part of the Group's work being more effective worldwide.

I am happy that the Office is well staffed now, which UNIDO has supported as part of our commitment to our G77 Member States.

UNIDO is your partner.

UNIDO is the only UN specialized agency with the capacity and technical expertise to support developing countries in their industrial development.

And UNIDO is your voice in the UN system and internationally, we stand for you and we fight for your interests.

Excellencies,

In November we held the 21st UNIDO General Conference and Global Industry Summit in Riyadh.

Our Member States agreed on a number of very important resolutions, with your support.

First of all, the Riyadh Declaration, which charts the way forward for our work together on the future of industries for development.

We agreed on a resolution to advance gender equality in industry and the empowerment of women.

And as a result the creation of the International Day of Women in Industry on 21 April to mark their critical role.

I also wish to thank you for your support of my re-appointment at the General Conference.

Your trust drives me, and I am very grateful for it.

Excellencies,

We have achieved so much together this past year and I am proud of the new work that we have started together.

We have almost doubled our technical cooperation implementation over the last four years.

For about two thirds of our projects, you are our implementation partner mainly in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific.

At this point I thank especially our main funding partners, China, Japan, EU Member States and the EU for their strong support.

I plan to expand our work together, and that includes programmatic solutions like our Programmes for Country Partnership. We increased the number of these Programmes from 15 in 2024 to 31 in 2025.

And we have also scaled up our work especially with LDCs and SIDS. These countries need especially our enhanced support.

I am committed to delivering concrete results for you on the ground.

In April we will hold the next edition of the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum here in Vienna. The Forum will focus on the needs and priorities of LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS.

This is another way for us to bring innovative solutions to your countries and leave no one behind in the global just energy transition.

I look forward to your participation!

I thank you again for your strong support as we continue on this path.

And I look forward to more close cooperation.

Thank you so much.