



ASSEMBLY PLENARY STATEMENT
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TO THE SIXTH ASSEMBLY OF THE
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
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Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Assembled Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure for me, as Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, one of the Implementing Agencies of the GEF, to address this Sixth Assembly. I am honored to be with you here today as the GEF and its partners pave the way forward for the next four years.

In this context, let me begin by thanking the donors for their continued commitment to safeguarding the environment through the GEF. We know the replenishment negotiations over the last year were challenging, but with your continued efforts and financial commitments, many more achievements of both the GEF and UNIDO will be possible.



Allow me to briefly reflect on UNIDO's progress and contribution to the partnership so far.

UNIDO's mandate is to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID). ISID enables UNIDO to target the drivers of environmental degradation with co-benefits such as increased economic growth, new jobs and shared prosperity. It is here that we see a strong alliance with the objectives of the GEF.

We are proud to look back on our evolving partnership with the GEF, starting with early GEF-3 projects focusing on POPs and other chemicals-related issues. Today, we are implementing over 200 projects in almost 80 countries, targeting all GEF focal areas by using the power of industry to help our member states and the GEF achieve sustainable impact. UNIDO currently has an active GEF portfolio of US\$ 686 million in GEF financing and leveraged additional support of the private and public sector.



The GEF Evaluation OPS-6 study confirmed that UNIDO is the fourth largest implementer of GEF private sector grants. Under GEF-6, we hold the largest overall share of projects under the chemicals and waste focal area, as well as the largest number in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS); providing support where it is needed most. Furthermore, looking at climate change mitigation, UNIDO has the fourth largest share of GEF-6 projects, reflecting a strong demand for our approaches on industrial energy efficiency and renewable energy.

It is apparent that the continued growth of the GEF-UNIDO portfolio would not have been possible if our services did not meet the expectations of our shared member states. Designing and implementing projects that are tailored to national needs and contribute to national economic priorities, as well as achieve global environment benefits, is at the core of UNIDO's work.

Looking towards GEF-7, the Programming Directions demonstrate a shared vision for the future. Both UNIDO and the GEF understand that **country ownership**, **robust partnerships** and **integrated solutions** are driving forces for transformational change.



Let me give you a few examples of how UNIDO's **flagship programmes** will mobilize the power of industry for the achievement of GEF-7 objectives.

The **Global Cleantech Innovation Programme**, which has already supported over 800 startup companies, will promote affordable and scalable solutions that help countries leapfrog to cleaner, more resilient economies.

On the important issue of **sustainable cities**, UNIDO will continue helping countries achieve urban-industrial symbiosis and turn cities into hubs of innovation and low-carbon development.

UNIDO will drive the shift towards a **circular economy** by transforming the way in which manufacturing sectors operate. We will promote resource efficiency and cleaner production, apply our eco-industrial park model, and support sustainable chemical and waste management.

Using its strong industrial partnerships and expertise, UNIDO will expand its **mercury programme** to further reduce and eliminate mercury use in the Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining Sector, as well as improve environmentally sound waste management in industrial facilities.



Finally, UNIDO will scale-up its value chain approach under the GEF-7 Impact Programme on **Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration**. This will help countries increase the value of their agricultural sector, while also improving food security and reducing the pressure on land.

Excellencies, Colleagues and Friends,

I witnessed the establishment of the GEF as a Senior Advisor to the Executive Director for China at the World Bank in 1991. Since then, the GEF has had to overcome many challenges but has also been at the forefront of efforts to protect the environment. To stand here today, as we celebrate the seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, is a great honour for me.

I would like to thank Naoko for her continued strong leadership of this important institution. Her leadership of the GEF Secretariat, as well as her intensive engagement with the Council Members, has defined the continued growth of the GEF. The strengthened emphasis on private sector engagement and operational efficiency will enable the GEF to continue delivering high-impact results for its member states.



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In conclusion, I would like to re-emphasize that UNIDO fully supports the strategic and programming directions for the GEF-7 Replenishment Cycle and stands ready to be a trustworthy partner in the years to come.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.

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