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Statement during the General Debate of the  
2023 High-level Political Forum

Mr. Ralf Bredel, Director & Representative to the UN

Excellencies,

- Mid-way through the 2030 Agenda it is clear that much work remains to be done to rescue the SDGs.
- Poverty is far from eradicated and climate change is accelerating.
- As the HLPF wraps up, it has been a pleasure for UNIDO to co-lead the process for the review of SDG 9.
- The review confirmed that sustainable industrialization remains critical to provide a sound economic basis for key SDG transitions.
- It reduces poverty, promotes innovation, empowers women, and facilitates the energy transition.
- However, as for other SDGs, progress towards SDG 9 is fragile.
- We need to scale up investments in green industrial policies, renewable energy and infrastructure.
- The 2023 Financing for Sustainable Development Report confirms: modern industrial policies can be a powerful tool for digital transformation, for job creation, and in our fight against climate change.

Excellencies,

- We need to intensify our efforts, particularly in the most vulnerable countries.
- At times of crises, there is a natural inclination to focus on short-term solutions.
- Sustainable industrial development is necessarily a long-term process.

- It requires long-term thinking, commitment and partnership-building — including with the private sector.
- At UNIDO, we stand ready to leverage our networks to support Member States in accelerating progress on key SDG transitions.
- Our policy advisory services and our technical cooperation programmes in over 120 countries support green industrialization and decarbonization, digitalization, skills and entrepreneurship development for SMEs, as well as sustainable supply chains, among others.
- The participation of women in higher paid and secure jobs, and the growing of women- and youth-led businesses, are in our focus.
- As we move forward, tracking progress in our efforts will be even more essential.
- As custodian of SDG 9 indicators, we invite you to make full use of UNIDO's "SDG 9 Industry Tracker", which is available online, and allows countries to assess their performance.

Excellencies,

- As we are approaching the SDG Summit, we look forward to working with all of you.
- Please count on our support.
- Thank you.