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Statement of Mr. LI Yong
Director General
on the occasion of the
Group of 77 Handover Ceremony
11 February 2016
Vienna, Austria

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Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be with you here today for the second handover ceremony of the Group of 77 since I have assumed office.

First of all, allow me to congratulate Ambassador Simon Madjumo MARUTA on his election as the Chairperson of the Group for 2016.

I also wish to thank Ambassador ANDEREYA of Chile for his commendable leadership as Chair of the G-77 Vienna Chapter during 2015, and wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

2015 was an important year for the Group and UNIDO, due to a number of events establishing global development policy for the next 15 years.

In particular,

- The UN Summit on Sustainable Development in New York established the SDGs, including SDG-9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure.
- The Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa recognized that inclusive and sustainable industrial development is essential for realizing the world we want. [*Article 15 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda stresses UNIDO's role in advancing the linkages between infrastructure development, inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation.*]
- The Climate Change Summit, COP21, in Paris struck a deal that will require major industrial retrofitting and restructuring for mitigation and adaptation to climate change

Two years after Lima, UNIDO's mandate is now a universal responsibility of all Member States, as part of the new global development policy. We have SDG-9: an unprecedented commitment of all nations to support inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The support and leadership received from your Group for

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our strengthened mandate were essential to our success in addressing these development priorities.

UNIDO has always worked closely with the Group of 77 and we will continue to work together towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I look forward to your continued support for UNIDO throughout 2016 and beyond.

Excellencies, Colleagues and Friends,

Let me also update you on our 2016 **management** priorities: Our top priority is **to effectively support Member States in achieving the SDG9 and industry related SDGs**. We will continue to pay much attention to developing partnerships for mobilizing multi-stakeholder resources, and ensuring that UNIDO continues its drive for exemplary effectiveness and efficiency as an organization.

We are also prioritizing green industry and the circular economy. With the international agreements reached last year we intend to fully capitalize on our expertise in green technologies and practices, sustainable energy, and climate resilient industrial solutions and social inclusion.

As you all know, we have started the **Programme for Country Partnerships (PCP)** on a pilot basis in Ethiopia and Senegal. We have recently launched the third pilot in **Peru** – the first time the PCP approach has been developed in a middle-income country context. In the future, I foresee that the PCP approach will become the basis of all our country programmes. Delivering and mainstreaming our PCP approach will be crucial for supporting our Member States to realize the SDGs.

I am confident that together we can continue the drive to eradicate poverty. We will work to generate youth employment by helping young people acquire skills and create new businesses. We are committed to: gender equality and the empowerment of women; to enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation; and to building effective partnerships – with all development actors, including, the private sector.

Allow me also to state UNIDO's appreciation for the support given by the G-77 to the organization-wide **Transparency Initiative** launched in May 2015. The **Open**

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Data Platform is an excellent tool, informing all Member States and other stakeholders about UNIDO's programmes efficiently and transparently.

2016 will mark the 50th anniversary of UNIDO and our mandate is more significant than ever. We will keep Member States informed on our programme of celebrations. I am thankful for the G-77's continuous support in promoting ISID and rewarding cooperation with UNIDO during these years. .

Finally, I wish to express my most sincere congratulations and wish you every success on this memorable occasion.

I would end with my statement with an African quote:

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together".

Thank you very much for your attention.