

**Statement of the Director General Mr. LI Yong during the handover  
ceremony of the Group of 77 on Friday, 24 February 2017  
Conference Room C-3, 7<sup>th</sup> floor**

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

It is my great pleasure and honour to be here today for the **third** handover ceremony of the Group of 77 since I have assumed office.

First of all, allow me to congratulate **Ambassador NAJAFI** from the Islamic Republic of Iran on your election as the Chairman of the Group for the year 2017.

I also wish to extend my thanks to Ambassador **MARUTA** from Namibia for his commendable leadership as Chair of the G-77 Vienna Chapter during 2016, and wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

In 2016, we celebrated UNIDO's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary under the slogan "together for a sustainable future" with a series of events focusing on the 2030 Agenda and the five themes that strengthen the SDGs – Peace, People, Planet, Prosperity and Partnership. Last November, UNIDO Member States, public and private partners, academia and the civil society came together to commemorate this special occasion, took stock of what was achieved and used the momentum of the event to translate these achievements into new commitments for the future. This week-long event was attended by over 1,600 participants from more than 190 countries, and was followed by 1.7 million people from all over the world via social media.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary also showcased the key role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), in addressing some of the most urgent challenges of today, such as migration, climate change, the new industrial revolution and youth employment, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

The key achievements were:

- Highlighting the importance of our **ISID mandate supporting SDGs** for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- **Strengthening partnerships** with our key stakeholders – donors, Member States, private sector partners and recipients;
- **Encouraging youth entrepreneurship** and **women's economic empowerment** as important contributions to poverty reduction;
- **Reflecting on the impact of UNIDO's innovations** and contributions to development cooperation over the past 50 years, today and how this can be continued in the future.

Excellencies, Colleagues and Friends,

Let me also update you on our recent Board of Directors' Management Retreat for Headquarters Directors and invited Regional Directors, which took place at the beginning of this month. We focused on: UNIDO in 2017:

It will be a year of action! Therefore, one **priority area** for UNIDO **during 2017**, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, is the expansion of the **Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs)** and the intensification of partnerships with development financial institutions.

Furthermore, UNIDO has been mandated by the **General Assembly** to lead the implementation of **IDDA3**, and has been requested **by the G20** to take the lead in reporting on industrialization in Africa and LDCs. In this connection, a first report was presented last September at the G20 Leaders' Summit in Guangzhou. This year's Presidency, Germany, sees UNIDO as a valuable ally in the fight against poverty in Africa and has asked UNIDO to continue cooperation with the G20 in several areas, including the digitalization of manufacturing, the circular economy and new avenues for productive investments in Africa.

I am also very pleased that UNIDO has expanded the **PCP** pilot programme to **Peru**.

I wish to express my gratitude to the **Group of 77 and China for its continuous long-lasting support and confidence in UNIDO**, its strengthened and rewarding cooperation, its promotion of ISID, and particularly, its support of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, advocating UNIDO's current and relevant role in industrialization. In this regard, relations between the G-77 Vienna and New York Chapters are of utmost importance, as recently reflected in the General Assembly's adoption of the latest Industrial Development Cooperation resolution.

During my recent duty travel to **New York**, where I was invited to participate in the annual strategic retreat of the Global Migration Group, I had the pleasure and honour to also meet with the **G-77 Troika**.

Finally, let me reiterate my most sincere congratulations on the assumption of the Chairmanship. I wish you every success for your tenure. From our side, it will be a great pleasure to continue strengthening the long-lasting, excellent working relationship between the G-77 and UNIDO, through its Secretariat, as we implement the agenda for sustainable development and achieve our ultimate objective: inclusive and sustainable industrial development.