

**Statement of the Director General Mr. LI Yong during the handover ceremony of  
the Group of 77 on Wednesday, 30 January 2019  
Conference Room C-4, 7<sup>th</sup> floor at 10:00 a.m.**

Madam Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honour to be here today for the fifth handover ceremony of the Group of 77 since I assumed Office.

Let me begin by congratulating Ambassador YOUSSEF from the Arab Republic of Egypt on his election as the Chairperson of the Group for the year 2019. I also wish to extend my gratitude to Ambassador JATIVA and Chargé d'Affaires Ms. Verónica GOMEZ from Ecuador for their commendable leadership as Chairpersons of the G-77 Vienna Chapter during the year 2018, and wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

I also wish to thank the Group for their engagement and support that contributed to last year's positive results at meetings of the Governing Bodies.

We continue to count on your support in 2019.

Your hard work and support were reflected well in UNIDO's achievements over the last 12 months.

In particular, I would like to highlight the interest expressed by our Member States for UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnership (PCP). As you know, the PCP is now ongoing in six countries with implementation advancing in Ethiopia, Senegal and Peru, programming finalized in Morocco and ongoing in Cambodia and Kyrgyzstan. I am pleased to note that we are currently paving the way to initiate the process of formulating four new programmes with the governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Rwanda and Zambia.

UNIDO's management objective of integration and scale up is becoming clearer - we are starting to implement fewer, but larger technical cooperation projects. In 2018, we developed programmes on Global Quality Standards and Eco Industrial Parks, signed with Switzerland as donor. Our integration and scale-up approach will help further strengthen our approach to supporting our member states towards achieving inclusive sustainable industrial development.

In 2018, we have also significantly strengthened partnerships. Last year has seen, among others, agreements with the African Development Bank and closer cooperation with the World Bank. I am also very pleased that we have now sealed our first concrete cooperation initiative with the Green Climate Fund which will contribute to our successful ongoing partnership with the Global Environment Facility.

At the global level, 2018 was decisive with the adoption of UNGA resolution 72/279 on the “Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system”. The GA Resolution 279 signed in May 2018 and its entry into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 is significant. The reform to which UNIDO attaches great importance to will have an impact on its operations at the field level and a cost with the doubling of its mandatory cost-sharing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. This is one of the challenges for this year where your support is greatly needed.

As we prepare ourselves for the 18<sup>th</sup> session of UNIDO’s General Conference in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, I look forward to our engagement in 2019.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the government of the United Arab Emirates for their generous offer for hosting the General Conference, and also the GMIS which is of great interest to the Group of 77 and China.

Let me close by reiterating my gratitude today and please be assured of UNIDO’s commitment in continuing the support and facilitation of the work of the G-77 Vienna Chapter.

Thank you.