



Statement of the Group of 77 and China at the 18th Session of UNIDO General Conference, delivered by H. E. Ambassador Omar Amer Youssef, Permanent Representative of Egypt and Chairman of the Vienna Chapter of the Group of 77

ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, 3RD NOVEMBER, 2019

Mr. President, [H.E. Eng. Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Industry, UAE]

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I congratulate you on your election as the President of the General Conference. In the same vein, I congratulate all the bureau members for their election. Indeed, the Group assures you of its full support and is confident that under your leadership this session of the Conference will be successful.
2. The Group also takes the opportunity to thank the outgoing President of the 17th Session of the General Conference, Her Excellency Ambassador Alena Kupchyna, Permanent Representative of Belarus, as well as the entire bureau for the commitment and outstanding achievements during their tenure.
3. The Group would also like to recognize the efforts of the Government and people of the United Arab Emirates for the warm hospitality and excellent facilities extended to make our work and stay in Abu Dhabi fruitful and comfortable.

Mr. President,

4. The Group would like to welcome the Republic of Azerbaijan, who joined the Group on 27 September 2019 as its newest member. The Group further welcomes the participation of Antigua and Barbuda, the Federated States of Micronesia and the State of Palestine for the first time as members at the General Conference. Their participation in the General Conference is a clear manifestation and recognition that developing countries attach to the role and contribution of UNIDO in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Mr. President,

5. The Group reaffirms its support for UNIDO, especially in facilitating sustainable industrial development in developing countries and tangible contribution towards the achievement of SDG 9 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Indeed, UNIDO's support will significantly assist many developing countries attain poverty reduction, job creation, especially for women and the youth, in accordance with domestic industrial development priorities. The Group, therefore, reiterates the important role of UNIDO as the central coordinator of international industrial cooperation towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the United Nations system.

Mr. President,

6. The Group, therefore, would like to remind of the commitment to Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID), which calls on all of us to ensure that no one is left behind in line with the Lima Declaration “Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development”. In this respect, the Group urges for enhanced cooperation from development partners targeting Industry 4.0 particularly in technical assistance, capacity-building and transfer of technology. The technical assistance and support would contribute and complement national efforts of the countries rolling out industrial parks. The assistance necessitates provision of appropriate training and capacity building, innovation, research and development capacities, which can better prepare developing countries for new technology of tomorrow.

Mr. President,

7. The Group would like to commend the Director General and his team for the excellent work and efforts towards successful implementation of the pilot Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs). The Group welcomes the report of the Secretariat with respect to the mid-term review for the pilot PCPs, which clearly shows positive improvement on coordination between the Secretariat and respective countries as well as continued efforts by the Secretariat to implement the recommendations of the Mid-Term Review on PCP pilot countries performance. Accordingly, the Group urges the Secretariat to continue implementing the recommendations in close consultation with PCP countries while regularly providing briefings to all Member States.

8. The Group further recognizes the continued contribution of some Member States and international donors towards the implementation of PCPs and its expansion, including supporting the use of the PCP model for self-starter countries through the Partnerships Trust Fund. The increasing demand for PCP is a manifestation of its success and role in contributing to industrial development in the recipient countries. The Group calls for more support and requests the Director General to continue strengthening partnerships, including promoting South-South, North-South, as well as triangular cooperation on a results-based management, among others, best practices and technology transfer as a mechanism for sustainable impact of UNIDO activities in developing countries. The Group also calls for continued support for Country Programmes (CPs) and its expansion to other Member States, upon request, under the technical cooperation framework.

Mr. President,

9. The Group stresses that technical cooperation remains as a priority and core activity of the Organization’s support to the Member States. The Group encourages the Organization’s plans to move towards bigger-sized projects and programs that allow both the budgeting of sufficient staff resources funded through voluntary contributions, including the leveraging of the United Nations Resident Coordinators (UNRC) system at the country or regional level, as well as a more sizable impact of UNIDO’s assistance, while stressing on the demand-driven nature of the technical cooperation projects of the Organization.

Mr. President,

10. The Group would like to acknowledge the significant contribution of the PCP and large-scale industries development in the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III). The Group further recognizes the efforts of the Director General in steering the Organization's activities aimed at the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on IDDA III, including promoting IDDA III and building necessary partnerships with development partners, other UN and Inter-Governmental Agencies and developmental Funds in support of its implementation.

11. The Group believes that enhanced collaboration between UNIDO and the African Union Commission, especially in sharing of best practices and quality data collection on African Union Member States' national industrial development policies would help indicate countries' allocation of financial and human resources in support of IDDA III and its contribution towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The Group, while requesting that focus should move to IDDA III investment activities, reiterates its full support to the Director General's efforts and UNIDO's Road Map for IDDA III implementation.

12. With respect to Least Developing Countries, the Group appreciates UNIDO's role in reducing poverty and addressing the specific structural transformation needs of the LDCs and emphasizes on continued support to help them achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

13. Further, the Group stresses on the importance of UNIDO to also support the Middle Income Countries (MICs) with a view to augmenting respective efforts to achieve competitiveness and sustainability through, among others, strengthening industrial competitiveness and trade and fostering private sector and public partnerships, capacity building, Fourth Industrial Revolution, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and circular economy.

14. The Group underlines the importance of taking into account the different levels of development and respective needs on Sustainable Industrial Development in the delivery of technical cooperation projects. In this context, the Group requests the Secretariat to facilitate sharing of best practices and technology transfer between the LDCs and MICs aimed at enhancing inclusive sustainable industrial development.

Mr. President,

15. On climate change, the Group supports UNIDO's technical cooperation activities in line with the Paris Agreement. To this end, the Group appreciates the excellent work of the Director General in nurturing existing and building new partnerships to finance projects and activities such as smart cities and green energy for inclusive industrial development and urges development partners to continue their support for the Organization.

Mr. President,

16. With regard to the on-going United Nations Development System Reform, the Group recognizes that the process was fully endorsed by all Members States and subsequently appreciates the Director General's efforts to ensure UNIDO's active participation as well as effective inclusion in the use of the United Nations Resident Coordinator system to deliver services to Member States. However, in view of the current financial situation of the Organization, the Group requests the Director General to proactively highlight UNIDO's situation in respect to the cost-sharing of the reform in order to ensure that the ultimate cost on UNIDO will, in no way, adversely hamper technical cooperation, field network and its operations and staff in the Headquarters and field offices. To this end, the Group looks forward to proactive and regular consultations by the Secretariat with Member States.

While calling on the Director General to ensure that UNIDO takes full advantage of the services of the Resident Coordinator System, the Group also urges all Members States to pay their assessed contributions in time and full and where possible contribute towards UNIDO's financial burden resulting from the cost-sharing of the UNDS Reform.

Mr. President,

17. In conclusion, the Group of 77 and China is confident that this Conference will provide us with the opportunity for constructive discussions that address the main challenges of the Organization towards achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development in line with the theme of the Conference: Innovate. Connect. Transform our Future.

Thank you, Mr. President.