



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China at the 8th Session of UNIDO
Least Developed Countries Ministerial Conference, delivered by H. E.
Ambassador Omar Amer Youssef, Permanent Representative of Egypt and
Chairman of the Vienna Chapter of the Group of 77 and China**

Abu Dhabi, 2nd November, 2019

Hon. Chair,

Honourable Ministers,

Director General LI Yong,

Excellencies, Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. The Group recognizes UNIDO's initiative to organize the 8th Least Developed Countries Ministerial Conference. Indeed, the Group fully supports the LDC Conference as one of the most important flagship event that aim to highlight UNIDO's activities on LDCs while taking into account the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the final precursor to the Fifth United Nations Conference on LDCs (LDC-V), to be held in Doha, Qatar, in 2021.
2. The Group commends UNIDO for giving special attention to the LDCs through its technical cooperation projects in line with the Lima Declaration, in order to achieve the Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development.
3. The Group fully supports the Conference given that it aims at developing new strategies for industrialization in LDCs beyond 2020, as well as assisting the LDCs attain their respective national industrial development policies. The Group further welcomes the fact that the Conference will include enhancing UNIDO's mandate and services provided to LDCs, in the context of contemporary programmatic frameworks such as the IPoA, the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III), the South-South and Triangular cooperation and the UNDS reform.
4. The Group notes that the Conference theme is "Accelerating industrialization in LDCs: Lessons learned and innovative approaches" which is very much aligned with UNIDO's mandate to promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) and SDG 9. The Group is convinced that the discussions will also focus on how to synchronize various initiatives and implementation of Resolutions targeting industrialization and poverty reduction in LDCs and align support/resources for quality results. In this respect, the Group fully supports an outcome that would also feed into the 18th General Conference of UNIDO.
5. The Group welcomes UNIDO's efforts to engage in the different global and regional fora to mobilize technical assistance and financial resources for its projects targeting the

LDCs. The group would also like to underline the critical need for realizing expeditiously the renewed and strengthened global partnership for LDCs in order to overcome their structural challenges, reduce poverty and achieve the agenda for sustainable development, hence enabling a considerable number of LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation from the category by 2020.

6. In this regard, the Group believes in the importance of our meeting today, which aims to strengthen partnerships between different development actors. The Group recognizes, with appreciation, the Director General's initiative of creating and sustaining new partnerships between and amongst relevant stakeholders from LDCs, traditional and emerging donors and the private sector, which have no doubt made a positive impact at national levels of some of the LDCs. The Group, in this respect, would like to recognize UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) and the significant contribution it has had in the socio-economic and industrial development of the pilot countries and its relevance and urge support for it as an effective tool to fight poverty.

7. In conclusion, the Group urges the international community to continue to support UNIDO projects aimed in achieving the targets for the LDCs. In this line, the Group encourages UNIDO to strengthen its ongoing initiatives on South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, in order to ensure efficient use of resources to support the LDCs.

I wish you all fruitful discussions.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.