



**G-77 and China statement during the Briefing with Mr. LI Yong,  
Director General of UNIDO on 12 June 2020, delivered by  
H. E. Ambassador Ganeson Sivagurunathan,  
Permanent Representative of Malaysia**

Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO  
Your Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,

1. I would like to start by thanking Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO, for the excellent and constructive briefing he presented today regarding UNIDO's response to Covid-19 pandemic, and I would like also to express - on behalf of the Group of G77 and China - that this is a timely opportunity to listen to your excellency about those issues and to discuss with you the various points we would like to raise regarding this topic.
2. The efforts of UNIDO, and all other UN agencies and organizations, are certainly vital in this critical time as the world is struggling to overcome the horrendous implications of the spread of COVID-19.
3. As we have seen, the impact of this virus has been severe on all countries. However, developing and least developed countries including the most vulnerable and those who face specific challenges, are the ones that are expected to suffer the most, due to the known reasons related to the development challenges they face, and the limited resources and capacities they possess.
4. The Group of G-77 and China is very appreciative for the efforts exerted by UNIDO in this respect and we trust that these efforts will not diminish after dealing with the current initial stage of containing the short term impact of the pandemic, but rather will continue throughout the next stages of recovery and revitalization of the industrial activities in the medium and long terms.
5. It is important in this context to highlight that this pandemic does not only impose on us the duty to save our industries and the jobs available for our workers, (aside of course from the primary objective of saving lives), but also to handle well the new challenges imposed by the way we deal with the spread of COVID-19.
6. One of the most important areas where the developing and least developed countries will require particular assistance is how to dispose safely, and in an environmentally friendly manner, of the PPEs and other equipment that are mass

produced currently for both the public and the medical teams to prevent the spread of the disease.

7. Most of our countries will need supplementary assistance and support to deal with this matter, whether in terms of facilities or personnel, so that they will have the appropriate capacities to handle it

8. Additionally, we have another considerable challenge represented in the need to develop quickly the trade and industrial complementarities between the developing countries, considering that it is expected that the repercussions of COVID-19 will impact the supply and value chains across the world in a way that may affect the food supplies and the primary and essential products used in the various industries.

9. Therefore, the member countries of the G-77 and China are looking forward for an exceptional effort by UNIDO, and other UN agencies and organizations, in order to mitigate the impacts of the spread of COVID-19 and to assume the difficult role of trying to vitalize the connections between the developing countries so that they can support each other in these difficult times.

Mr. LI, dear colleagues,

10. In line with our reaffirmed commitment to United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries. We encourage all States to work for inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

11. I do not want to take more time to examine the issues that are being discussed quite frequently. I just wanted to highlight a couple of points that I feel they represent additional important challenges, beside the other principal issues related to this topic.

12. Thank you again Director General, and all the colleagues in the Secretariat of UNIDO, for your efforts and for this briefing.