



**G-77 and China Statement during the UNIDO IDB 49<sup>th</sup> session, 12-15 July 2021,  
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz,  
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica**

Madam President, [H.E. Madam Dominika Krois, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Poland]

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the IDB and other members for their election to the bureau of this session. The Group is confident that you will steer the IDB with great skills for its successful and fruitful conclusion.
2. The Group would also like to thank the former President of the 48<sup>th</sup> session, H.E. Mr. Darmansjah DJUMALA, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Indonesia, for his leadership during the previous session, and the members of his bureau for their outstanding work in continuing to move the process forward successfully.
3. The Group would like to express its deep appreciation for Mr. LI Yong, the Director General, for his outstanding work, dedication, commitment and contributions in achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the developing countries. The Group would also like to thank the Secretariat for organizing this session.

Thank you, Madam President.

**Agenda item 18: Recommendation of a candidate for the post of Director General**

Madam President,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to express our most sincere congratulation on the election of Mr. Gerd Müller as the new Director General of UNIDO and to assure him of the Group's full cooperation during his mandate.
2. The Organization finds itself at a special juncture that requires optimism, pragmatism, and action. The still-ongoing global pandemic has seen the global development agenda evolve and the new and unique circumstances it has brought have greatly affected the priorities of both the traditional donors and recipients. This has also served to highlight that the services and expertise of UNIDO on its priority fields are still very much needed by all States of the Group of 77, while creating new challenges for a small but very specialized Organization.
3. The vast experience of Mr. Gerd Müller gives the Group hope and confidence for a better future of UNIDO, based on its relevance and contribution towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The Group is encouraged that under your guidance, UNIDO will be better positioned to not only meet all challenges, but to explore opportunities that will improve the delivery of cooperation, increase mobilization of resources, and excel in its management.
4. The Group would also like to take this opportunity to thank the other candidates for sharing their vision for the Organization, to acknowledge them for their commendable showing throughout the election process, and to encourage them to work hand-in-hand with the new Director General towards the common goal of promoting and improving UNIDO's core mandate.
5. Director General, you count on the support of the Group, including its openness for a permanent and continuous dialogue.

6. The Group of 77 and China wishes the newly elected Director General full success in this new endeavor.

Thank you, Madam President.

### **Agenda item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2020**

Madam President,

1. The Group takes note of the Annual Report of the Director General which provides an overview of UNIDO's activities, achievements, as well as improvements made and challenges faced by the Organization during the past year.

2. As the primary objective of UNIDO is the promotion and acceleration of industrial development in the developing countries as stipulated in its constitution, therefore, the Group considers that the developing countries are in best position to define their needs, priorities, challenges and obstacles, as well as to formulate solutions in the field of industrial development.

3. The Group commends the Director General and the Secretariat for continuation of industrial development programmes, despite the most difficult times of travel restrictions and lockdowns in 2020.

4. Despite multiple challenges of COVID-19, UNIDO's service delivery in terms of technical cooperation implementation in 2020 reached a figure of US\$177.7 million which is equivalent to 95 per cent of the average delivery in the preceding five-year period. This is really commendable in such an unprecedented year.

5. The Group agrees with the Director General that the challenges of 2020 renewed the global sense of solidarity and reminded us that international cooperation and the institutions of the United Nations system, such as UNIDO, are critical to addressing global crises.

6. The Group also agrees with the Director General that giant leap in digitalization that the world witnessed in 2020 offered new opportunities, but it also exposed new forms of inequalities, including the digital divide.

7. The Group believes that due to repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic on financial stability, industry, global value chains and jobs around the globe, the role of UNIDO has become even more important for inclusive and sustainable industrial development to build environmentally sustainable, carbon-neutral and resilient planet.

8. The Group emphasises that UNIDO should enhance its technical support to the developing countries for their Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, which is the core mandate of the Organization.

9. The Group also calls for increased support from international donors to assist the developing countries in achieving their developmental objectives and requests the Director General to continue to strengthen partnerships as well as South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation.

Thank you, Madam President.

### **Agenda Item 4: Report of the Programme and Budget Committee**

Madam President,

1. The Group of 77 and China expresses its thanks to Her Excellency Ms. Faouzia Mebarki of Algeria in her capacity as Chair of the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the Programme and Budget Committee for this Report of the Programme and Budget Committee.

2. The Group wishes to recall the points it had raised at the 37th session of the PBC, and reiterates the following:

(a) On Agenda item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2020:

As the Group had delivered a separate statement on this item earlier, we would simply take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to outgoing Director General LI Yong for his outstanding service to the Organization since 2013. The Group unreservedly commends Mr. LI for his innovative work in UNIDO, particularly on the introduction of the Country Programme and Programme for Country Partnership initiatives, as well as the timely response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which have bolstered the relevance of the Organization. The Group sincerely wishes Mr. LI the very best in his future endeavours.

(b) On Agenda item 4: Report of the External Auditor:

The Group strongly urges UNIDO to address the findings of the External Auditor for 2020, regardless of the level of importance and priority assigned to them in the report, as well as to work on closing the remaining unresolved findings of the previous audit year, as we consider all these recommendations particularly pertinent in ensuring that the Organization will function as efficiently and effectively as possible.

(c) On Agenda item 5: Financial situation of UNIDO, including unutilized balances of appropriations:

The Group continues to encourage Member States for timely payment of their contributions in full in order to maintain a healthy and stable financial outlook for the Organization even in face of the pandemic. A sufficient, assured and predictable funding is vital for UNIDO to effectively deliver its core mandate of SDG 9.

(d) On Agenda item 6: Report of the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues:

The Group also continues to appreciate the work of the Informal Working Group and we look forward to future discussions in the IWG on matters of importance to Member States, including the After-Service Health Insurance, technical cooperation challenges, and improving the timely and full collection of assessed contributions, considering the circumstances that may hinder the ability of Member States to meet their financial obligations.

(e) On Agenda item 7: Programme and budgets, 2022-2023:

The Group recognizes the challenges working within limited resources, balancing savings and income with expenditures and obligations, and coping with shifting demands due to unforeseen circumstances, and encourages UNIDO to find a solution to ensure that the Organization is responsibly flexible in terms of moving resources between objects of expenditure to deal with future exigencies.

(f) On Agenda item 15: UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

The Group remains very concerned with the negative impact that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to have on many Member States, which cuts across all aspects of society and we believe UNIDO should also remain seized of this issue as we move forward. The Group has prepared a more comprehensive statement on this matter and this will be delivered when we take up the relevant agenda item.

(g) On Agenda item 16: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III):

As the Group has likewise prepared a full statement on this important matter, we simply wish to emphasize the need to continue to raise UNIDO's level of engagement with more African countries and the African Union, especially through the finalization of structure of the IDDA III Secretariat. We will elaborate on these matters during the appropriate agenda item.

3. With this statement, the Group of 77 and China takes notes of the Report of the Programme and Budget Committee.

Thank you, Madam President.

### **Agenda item 7: UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic**

Madam President,

1. Having taken note of the report by Director General on UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Group of 77 and China highly appreciates the great efforts that the Director General and the Secretariat of UNIDO have been making to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic since February 2020. We commend the substantial support of UNIDO to the affected developing countries by the pandemic.

2. The COVID-19 pandemic both devastates and disrupts economic activities, industries and global trade worldwide. It has pushed nearly 131 million additional people into poverty in 2020. The Group alerts that the pandemic will cause a delay and jeopardize the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With the different paces of economic recoveries in different countries, the North and the South will further widen their development gap in the near future. This pandemic raises many uncertainties to the world economy and brings instabilities to the noble idea, the applications and the implementation of sustainable development.

3. This pandemic and its socioeconomic consequences have underscored the necessity of strengthening the international cooperation and the multilateral institutions including UNIDO. In this situation, inclusive and sustainable industrial development will remain a key priority for the economic recovery from the pandemic. Towards UNIDO's "build back better" objective, the organization can play a key role within its mandate through its technical expertise in industrial development.

4. As the pandemic continues, challenges and risks in public health, economic developments and social stability remain strenuous to many developing countries. The Group, therefore, proposes to the Secretariat to take the pandemic-responsive work as a key priority, and take the following actions:

(a) to continue collaborations with other International Organizations to provide necessary assistance in the production or procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), and access to ventilators to all developing countries in need;

(b) to collaborate with other International Organizations directly and effectively so as to provide to developing countries more opportunities to access the vaccines on equitable and fair conditions and assistance for the development and production of vaccines by pharmaceutical companies in developing countries;

(c) to expand its contacts with international donors at the bilateral, regional and global levels to mobilize more financial resources to support the developing countries in their effort to overcome the severe impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;

(d) to enhance the technical cooperation programs in a way to facilitate the digital transformation in developing countries, and promote industrial development through digital technologies in the process of COVID-19 recovery.

Thank you, Madam President.

### **Agenda item 10: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III)**

Madam President,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation for the Report on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) and it would like also to reconfirm to the Director General of UNIDO and the Secretariat their full support for their efforts leading to the achievement of the inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Madame President,

2. The Group believes that UNIDO, under the immense crisis the world is facing, should continue to intensify and expand its cooperation efforts with the African countries to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the inclusive and sustainable industrial development, and to assist in providing the African countries that have the capabilities to produce the vaccines, to do so with sufficient quantities and low costs, in order to cover the local obligations and provide vaccines to their fellow African countries to fulfil their demand in the shortest time possible. This endeavor will enable the African countries to achieve the necessary scales of immunity and prevent the collapse of their economies.

3. Additionally, to achieve this goal, UNIDO needs to work closely with the countries that have developed the vaccines, as well as the African Union and the regional and subregional organizations, and with the International Financial Institutions, to overcome any hurdles against reaching this goal.

4. Furthermore, The Group believes that in parallel with the above efforts, it is necessary to keep working on expanding the Programme for Country Partnership (PCPs) and Country Programs (CPs) in Africa, as well as the development of the national African strategies for implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which will expand the opportunities for achieving a wider scale of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, as well as higher levels of inter-regional trade and a deepened pan-African collaboration.

5. Finally, the Group would like to reiterate its appreciation for the Secretariat's efforts to finalize the structure of the IDDA III Secretariat, noting that it expects that the steps taken during the recent months to assign the staff of the Secretariat will be accomplished completely by the end of August 2021, so that it can achieve the targets assigned to it in the nearest time possible.

Thank you, Madam President.

### **Agenda item 16: Personnel matters**

Madam President,

1. The Group of 77 and China commends UNIDO for its continued efforts to improve personnel-related issues in the UNIDO and encourages it to observe the Organization's principles.

2. The Group reaffirms its firm position concerning the need to enhance the equitable geographical distribution in all positions of the Secretariat.

3. The Group takes note of all the initiatives taken by UNIDO, in line with the implementation of the UNIDO gender parity action plan (2018-2023), addressing sexual

harassment and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse within the Organization and Director General's zero-tolerance policy, in this regard.

4. The Group requests the Secretariat to brief Member States on the UNIDO Human Resources Strategy 2020-2022.

5. The Group welcomes 2020 UNIDO Merit Awards exercise based on the achievements and contributions of UNIDO personnel to its mandate as well as its strategic and management objectives and priorities, in particular those who actively engaged in the Organization's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. The Group requests the Director General to continue proactively addressing UNIDO staff welfare, including conditions of service applicable to the professionals and after-service health insurance (ASHI) issues.

Thank you, Madam President.