



Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the 9th Least Developed Countries Ministerial Conference, 25-26 November 2021, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica

Honorable Chairperson,
Honorable Ministers,
Director General LI Yong,
Excellencies, distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. The Group of 77 and China welcomes UNIDO's continuing initiative to focus attention on LDCs within the context of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, particularly through its hosting of this ninth Conference of the Least Developed Countries Ministerial Conference under the theme, "The Next Decade of Action: Accelerating ISID in LDCs."
2. The Group notes with appreciation the fact that this year's conference is the first one to be co-organized by the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States together with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and that this partnership comes ahead of the entry into force of the Post-Cotonou Partnership Agreement, which will hopefully enhance existing areas of technical cooperation while opening up new avenues in this regard in support of LDCs.
3. As we stand on the cusp of the third decade of the 21st century, the Group recalls the Istanbul Programme of Action, or IPoA, for LDCs, which defined eight priority areas of action that have shaped UNIDO's operational strategy to support the graduation of LDCs from the period 2011-2020. We welcome the opportunity to look back and review the achievements made under the IPoA and to share learnings from the experiences, challenges, and best practices developed to address the needs of LDCs over the last decade during this ninth Conference.
4. Drawing from these lessons, the Group looks forward to the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration for LDCs aimed at pre-validating UNIDO's position paper containing its policy orientation, which will serve as a building block for the next UNIDO Operational Strategy and Implementation Plan for the LDCs 2022-2031.
5. The Group likewise looks forward to the upcoming 5th United Nations Conference on the LDCs scheduled to take place in Doha, Qatar from 23 to 27 January 2022, which will hopefully adopt the Doha Programme of Action 2022-2031, or DPoA, to mainstream its six priority areas in UNIDO's future work through the promotion of resource mobilization and cooperation strategies between donor countries and LDCs.
6. In the face of the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic and its markedly devastating impact on nascent industries and emerging economies, particularly those of the LDCs, the Group emphasizes that the importance of UNIDO's work in providing technical support and assistance in their efforts at recovery cannot be overstated. We therefore call on all parties to not just continue supporting UNIDO's activities, but to enhance support for the Organization's initiatives towards accelerating the graduation process for LDCs and ensure that no one is truly left behind.

7. The Group also recognizes the key role of UNIDO in providing a platform to bring together the different development actors through the organization of various fora and meetings that promote exchange of policy best practices to surmount the many challenges faced by LDCs.

8. In conclusion, we encourage UNIDO to strengthen its efforts at partnership building through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation, and to broaden its resource mobilization to fulfill its mandate of ISID in the LDCs.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.