



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNIDO General Conference, 29 November – 3 December 2021, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica**

**Tribute message for Mr. LI Yong, outgoing Director General of UNIDO**

Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I wish to express our deepest gratitude to Mr. LI Yong for ably and effectively leading UNIDO as Director General over the last eight years. His exemplary guidance, particularly during the onset of the continuing COVID-19 global pandemic in early 2020, has proven to be a steadying influence for the Organization and its stakeholders.
2. The Group also wishes to commend Mr. LI for the responsive vision he has endowed the Organization, that despite the many challenges faced by UNIDO, it has remained relevant in advancing inclusive and sustainable industrial development. This vision is best exemplified by the Country Programme (CP) and Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) which were implemented during Mr. LI's tenure. The positive impact of the PCP on developing countries in particular is a truly notable achievement.
3. Other initiatives that shine a light on UNIDO's relevance on climate change, gender parity, green and circular economy, as well as the introduction of results based budgeting as a way to streamline the organization, among many others, are well-implemented and will undoubtedly be positive contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a worthy legacy of his stint as Director General.
4. As we bid Mr. LI Yong farewell and once again thank him for his outstanding work in UNIDO, the Group of 77 and China wishes him nothing but the best in all his future endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. President.