



**STATEMENT OF G77 AND CHINA DURING THE 10TH MINISTERIAL MEETING
ON LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCS), SCHEDULED FOR 24 – 25
NOVEMBER 2023, IN VIENNA
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AFTAB A. KHOKHER,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN**

Chairperson,
Honourable Ministers,
Director General of UNIDO,
Excellencies, distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. It is a great honour and privilege to address the 10th Ministerial Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on behalf of G-77 and China in Vienna.
2. As a Group of developing countries, the G-77 and China cannot overstate the significance of addressing the developmental challenges faced by the Least Developed Countries. It is unfortunate that LDC countries continue to grapple with multifaceted and severe structural impediments to sustainable development. From economic disparities to environmental vulnerabilities, the journey toward economic progress for LDCs is fraught with hurdles that demand collective attention and concerted efforts from the global community.

Mr. Chair

3. The Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031 stands as a beacon of hope and commitment. Its adoption at the LDC5 conference in March 2022 and subsequent endorsement by the General Assembly in April 2022 represent a pivotal moment in our collective resolve to uplift vulnerable nations. It is imperative that we seize this momentum to implement the plans and partnerships outlined in the DPoA over the coming decade.
4. The Group urges UNIDO to continue building new partnerships to help LDCs overcome structural challenges, eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the agreed targets under the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) for LDCs 2022-2031, which will play a crucial role in facilitating sustainable and irreversible graduation from the LDC category.
5. Recognizing the importance of regional collaboration, the Group advocates for strengthened regional associations. By fostering unity and leveraging shared resources, regional cooperation becomes a catalyst for inclusive development, empowering nations to collectively overcome challenges and capitalize on opportunities.

Mr. Chair,

6. The Group commends UNIDO's support for industrialisation efforts of LDCs and notes with appreciation that UNIDO's Operational Strategy for the years 2022-2031, which will be considered during our meeting, aligns seamlessly with the six focus areas in the DPoA.
7. The Group supports UNIDO in developing the implementation plan, in consultation with Member States, to expedite the execution of the Operational Strategy for the years 2022-2031 in synergy with UNIDO'S strategy for Africa 2023-2025 to foster global solidarity and international cooperation.
8. The Group views UNIDO's technical cooperation as fundamental for the realization of inclusive and sustainable industrial development of LDCs. By designing tailored programmes, UNIDO plays a pivotal role in developing capacities and facilitating technology transfer, which are crucial for achieving self-sufficiency and resilience in these countries.
9. The Group appreciates UNIDO's effective deployment of South-South and triangular industrial cooperation (SSTIC) as a pivotal modality for fostering technical cooperation among developing nations - further solidifying its role as a catalyst for sustainable industrial development.
10. The Group commends these efforts and urges UNIDO to seek additional ways to uplift UNIDO's technical cooperation endeavours in the LDC countries.
11. The Group appreciates the call by the Director General of UNIDO for a new deal for LDCs based on debt relief, easy and fair access to financial markets; investments in infrastructure development for agriculture, sustainable energy and climate protection and enhanced access to climate finance.
12. The Group commends UNIDO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the launch of the Agrifood System Transformation Accelerator, a global programme assisting in agrifood system transformation in 15 countries across the world.
13. The Group reaffirms UNIDO's pivotal role in accelerating the attainment of the 2030 Agenda and underscores our commitment to the principle of leaving no one behind in our collective journey towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
14. In conclusion, let us approach the challenges ahead with renewed determination, recognizing that our collective actions today will not only shape the future of LDCs but will also have a positive impact on all countries, irrespective of their current economic status. The Group stands ready to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to turn commitments into concrete results.

Thank you.