

Pakistan statement

at the 18th Session of UNIDO General Conference
to be delivered by

Mr. Amir Ashraf Khawaja, Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Production
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Madam Vice President
Colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, and other members of the Bureau on their election. They have our full support to steer the 18th Session of the General Conference to a successful conclusion.

Let me also convey our gratitude to the outgoing President of the 17th Session of the General Conference, Her Excellency Ambassador Alena Kupchyna, Permanent Representative of Belarus, as well as the entire bureau for their outstanding work.

Our full appreciation for the dynamic leadership of Director General Li Yong for effective implementation of UNIDO's mandate and for the Secretariat.

I would also like to recognize the efforts of the Government and people of the United Arab Emirates for the warm hospitality and excellent facilities extended to make our work and stay in Abu Dhabi comfortable and fruitful.

Pakistan aligns itself with the statements of G77 and China and Asia Pacific Group.

Madam. Vice President,

Pakistan welcomes the participation of Antigua and Barbuda, the Federated States of Micronesia and the State of Palestine for the first time as Members at the General Conference.

For developing nations like Pakistan, inclusive and sustainable industrialization plays a pivotal role not only in the economic development but also in the social development, through job creation that reduces poverty and helps to decrease inequalities.

We acknowledge UNIDO's technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives both in the public and private sector in Pakistan. I am pleased to

recall that in the early 1970s, when Pakistan's leather industry was in its infancy, UNIDO started to play a catalytic role in building capacity to create the conditions for the development of this important sector. Since then, UNIDO has been diversifying and increasing its activities into multiple areas. UNIDO in Pakistan has been actively working to improve the country's trade capacity, access to renewable energy, environmental protection and industrial development.

Madam. Vice President,

So far, UNIDO has implemented over 50 projects in various areas for providing clean and sustainable energy, empowering women and youth and ensuring food safety through horticulture and fisheries development as well as value-chain integration. UNIDO has assisted Pakistan for increasing competitiveness of our industry through testing, monitoring, standardization and certification for conformity assessment.

With the assistance of UNIDO, we aim to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Development of Industrial Clusters and their further integration into global value chains, Small and Medium Enterprises' (SME) Support and Agro-Food Development are key areas of cooperation for inclusive sustainable industrial development in Pakistan.

The very recent signing of Country Programme (CP) of UNIDO will further enhance the competitiveness of industrial enterprises through technology oriented initiatives and increase productivity and quality by fostering innovation, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability of industrial production. Pakistan appreciates UNIDO's support for development of the Country Programme. We believe that it would lead to Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) in near future which will advance Pakistan's Vision 2025.

Madam Vice President,

Pakistan seeks UNIDO's continued help in achieving its objective of promoting the competitiveness of local industry. Pakistani industry is in dire need of upgradation and compliance to international best practices to face the challenges of 4th industrial revolution.

The Government of Pakistan desires to intensify collaboration with UNIDO especially with the initiation of Pak-China Economic Corridor that will have a far reaching impact on the industrial development, market dynamics and regional economy. As part of this economic corridor, a number of industrial economic zones will be established with state-of-the-art infrastructure. In this regard, we would like to seek UNIDO's expertise and strategic support for

achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development in line with theme of the Conference: Innovate. Connect. Transform our Future.

The government of Pakistan is committed to economic empowerment of women of Pakistan. The government is encouraging more women participation in the industrial sector through various initiatives. This is in line with Gender mainstreaming policy of UNIDO. So, this is an area in which we can jointly work to engage more women in the industrial landscape of the country.

I would also like to quote a recent example of collaboration of UNIDO with the government of Pakistan in this regard. In last week of September 2019, UNIDO under the project of IPU, facilitated the inclusion of Pakistani Women's Handicrafts/dresses from the remote area of Chitral and Gilgit Baltistan for participation in Milan Fashion Week. This was a remarkable step to give women access to market and will result in women' economic empowerment and poverty reduction.

Madam Vice President,

Climate change is a serious problem especially in developing countries like Pakistan. Our country is amongst the top 10 countries which are most affected by climate change. The greenhouse gases (GHGs) are causing destruction to many ecosystems. One example is the problem of smog in Lahore and other cities of Pakistan which has resulted in increase in diseases as well as accidents. It also affects economy as life becomes standstill due to SMOG.

The issue of climate change is very high on the agenda of the government of Pakistan. The government has already initiated one billion tree campaign and looks forward to continued collaboration with UNIDO to address this challenge.

Pakistan welcomes the reform process in the United Nations Development System with a note of caution that it should not adversely impact the mandate and functioning of UNIDO. Rather, it should strengthen UNIDO's work for Member States in achieving targets outlined in Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, particularly Goal 9.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate Pakistan's deep appreciation for UNIDO's role and activities to achieve the objectives set out in Agenda 2030. We also reaffirm our support to UNIDO's activities in Pakistan.

I thank you Madam Vice President.
