



Statement during the UNIDO IDB 49th session, 12-15 July 2021, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Ms. Manizha Bakhtari, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

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

At the outset, 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. Under your leadership we are confident that this session will be successful.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank as well the outgoing President, H.E. Mr. Darmansjah DJUMALA, Ambassador of Indonesia, and the bureau members for their outstanding work and contributions at the previous session.

I have listened with great interest to the statement of Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO and in this regard we appreciate his efforts in leading this Organization, especially UNIDO's efforts regarding women empowerment. We would like to also thank the Secretariat for organizing this session.

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

Madam President,

Afghanistan welcomes the Director General's Annual Report and commends UNIDO's achievements and activities carried out by the Organization in the last year.

As stipulated in the Constitution of UNIDO under Chapter 1, Article 1, the primary objective of the Organization shall be the promotion and acceleration of industrial development in the developing countries. In this regard, Afghanistan calls for stronger support in the areas of (1) technical cooperation in the field of industrial development; (2) assistance in the production of goods for domestic and export markets and; (3) securing an equitable share in the total world industrial production.

Madam President,

Afghanistan is facing the extensive consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. Next to the virus, Afghanistan is fighting also a fight for peace against terrorism and insecurity, initiatives all at jeopardy due to this crisis. In this critical situation, the provision of assistance to the countries in need is essential. Afghanistan now more than ever needs the support and cooperation of the international community in suppressing this global health emergency. We

attach great importance to the role of international organizations, such as UNIDO, to face the many challenges in our country.

While it is necessary to supply least developed nations with equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and other medical equipment needed to combat the immediate effects of COVID-19, the challenge is not only bound to the material dimension. As UNIDO can create opportunities to develop technical cooperation projects, we need to focus on knowledge, processes and other areas of cooperation and activities needed for a forceful response against this pandemic.

Madam President,

We attach a great significance to ISID-related technical cooperation and appreciate the UNIDO's increasing technical services including through country programs.

We are currently working with UNIDO on formulating a new Country Programme for Afghanistan for the years 2022-2025.

Furthermore, Small and Medium Enterprises have been supported by UNIDO. In this context, Afghanistan would like to be part of the UNIDO Programme 'Development of Clusters and Networks of SMEs' implemented by the UNIDO Private Sector Development Branch.

Afghanistan also appreciates the progress and implementation of the UNIDO Programme for Country Partnership (PCP), enabling the Government of Afghanistan to further develop the industrial sector in a manner that will generate employment opportunities, reduce poverty, and ensure inclusive growth and equality.

Under this mechanism, UNIDO is directly engaged with all relevant Ministries in Afghanistan.

Madam President,

We believe that that a stronger cooperation with UNIDO can help countries like Afghanistan to advance from a status of LDC and move forward to a stable and balanced economy. We hold the view that there should be a mechanism through which LDCs could be prioritized when it comes to UNIDO's development initiatives.

As I conclude, allow me to once again express my appreciation for UNIDO's continued engagement and cooperation. Our joint efforts will have significant impact in the achievement of broader social and economic development goals which are prerequisites for prosperity, peace and stability.

I thank you, Madam President.