



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
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Statement

By

**H.E. Dr. Kazem Gharibabadi,
Ambassador and the Permanent Representative of the Islamic
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Agenda Item 7: UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

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Madam. President,

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and would like to add some comments at its national capacity as follow:

We take note of the report of the Director-General on UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and highly appreciate the efforts exerted by the Director-General and the Secretariat of UNIDO in this respect and also for their tangible role in mitigating the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide. Towards UNIDO's "build back better" objective, the organization can play a key role within its mandate through its technical expertise in industrial development. We are looking forward to the continued endeavors of UNIDO and the other relevant international organizations in assisting the countries that were affected by the impact of COVID-19.

We share the view reflected in the report that the socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic can be long-lasting and severe unless global policy responses are initiated for a robust and sustainable recovery. Those actions should comprise smart investments in economic, societal, and climate resilience, revitalization of global trade, avoidance of premature austerity policies, and addressing widening inequalities.

This pandemic requires a large-scale, coordinated, and comprehensive multilateral response to support countries in need, enabling them to recover better for more prosperous and resilient and inclusive economies and societies. In this context, we deeply express our concern over the serious impacts of COVID-19 on many developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries and those facing specific challenges, out of their control, which severely compromises their ability to withstand the impact of the pandemic shock and to invest in the implementation of the sustainable development.

Madam. President,

Although the response to and recovery from COVID-19 requires global solidarity and international cooperation, we continue to witness the excessive use of unilateral coercive measures and sanctions by very certain countries, especially of secondary and extra-territorial implications, which are in flagrant breach of the basic purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, International Law, and International Human Rights Law as well as in absolute contradiction with the established principles of multilateralism and the basic norms of international relations and diplomacy.

We strongly believe that it is a critical time to cooperate and communicate, not only by sharing responsibilities, based on international cooperation and multilateralism but also by taking decisive action together as an international community to put an end to such and inhuman acts of economic and medical terrorism. We commend the solidarity and cooperation shown among developing countries, within different the frameworks including in the format of South-South cooperation, in contributing to the efforts to confront the pandemic.

Finally, we reiterate that UNIDO should intensify its efforts, in collaboration with other UN organizations and agencies, to make sure that the most vulnerable and affected countries by the pandemic are provided with the capacity and the opportunities to have local production and continued access to COVID-19 vaccine and related equipment which are needed for the sustained operation of their vital services and the daily life activities.

I thank you Madam President.