



**G-77 and China Statement during the UNIDO IDB 49<sup>th</sup> session, 12-15 July 2021,  
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz,  
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica**

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

Madam President,

1. The Group takes note of the Annual Report of the Director General which provides an overview of UNIDO's activities, achievements, as well as improvements made and challenges faced by the Organization during the past year.
2. As the primary objective of UNIDO is the promotion and acceleration of industrial development in the developing countries as stipulated in its constitution, therefore, the Group considers that the developing countries are in best position to define their needs, priorities, challenges and obstacles, as well as to formulate solutions in the field of industrial development.
3. The Group commends the Director General and the Secretariat for continuation of industrial development programmes, despite the most difficult times of travel restrictions and lockdowns in 2020.
4. Despite multiple challenges of COVID-19, UNIDO's service delivery in terms of technical cooperation implementation in 2020 reached a figure of US\$177.7 million which is equivalent to 95 per cent of the average delivery in the preceding five-year period. This is really commendable in such an unprecedented year.
5. The Group agrees with the Director General that the challenges of 2020 renewed the global sense of solidarity and reminded us that international cooperation and the institutions of the United Nations system, such as UNIDO, are critical to addressing global crises.
6. The Group also agrees with the Director General that giant leap in digitalization that the world witnessed in 2020 offered new opportunities, but it also exposed new forms of inequalities, including the digital divide.
7. The Group believes that due to repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic on financial stability, industry, global value chains and jobs around the globe, the role of UNIDO has become even more important for inclusive and sustainable industrial development to build environmentally sustainable, carbon-neutral and resilient planet.
8. The Group emphasises that UNIDO should enhance its technical support to the developing countries for their Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, which is the core mandate of the Organization.
9. The Group also calls for increased support from international donors to assist the developing countries in achieving their developmental objectives and requests the Director General to continue to strengthen partnerships as well as South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation.

Thank you, Madam President.