



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

Agenda item 7: UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Madam President,

1. Having taken note of the report by Director General on UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Group of 77 and China highly appreciates the great efforts that the Director General and the Secretariat of UNIDO have been making to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic since February 2020. We commend the substantial support of UNIDO to the affected developing countries by the pandemic.

2. The COVID-19 pandemic both devastates and disrupts economic activities, industries and global trade worldwide. It has pushed nearly 131 million additional people into poverty in 2020. The Group alerts that the pandemic will cause a delay and jeopardize the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With the different paces of economic recoveries in different countries, the North and the South will further widen their development gap in the near future. This pandemic raises many uncertainties to the world economy and brings instabilities to the noble idea, the applications and the implementation of sustainable development.

3. This pandemic and its socioeconomic consequences have underscored the necessity of strengthening the international cooperation and the multilateral institutions including UNIDO. In this situation, inclusive and sustainable industrial development will remain a key priority for the economic recovery from the pandemic. Towards UNIDO's "build back better" objective, the organization can play a key role within its mandate through its technical expertise in industrial development.

4. As the pandemic continues, challenges and risks in public health, economic developments and social stability remain strenuous to many developing countries. The Group, therefore, proposes to the Secretariat to take the pandemic-responsive work as a key priority, and take the following actions:

(a) to continue collaborations with other International Organizations to provide necessary assistance in the production or procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), and access to ventilators to all developing countries in need;

(b) to collaborate with other International Organizations directly and effectively so as to provide to developing countries more opportunities to access the vaccines on equitable and fair conditions and assistance for the development and production of vaccines by pharmaceutical companies in developing countries;

(c) to expand its contacts with international donors at the bilateral, regional and global levels to mobilize more financial resources to support the developing countries in their effort to overcome the severe impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;

(d) to enhance the technical cooperation programs in a way to facilitate the digital transformation in developing countries, and promote industrial development through digital technologies in the process of COVID-19 recovery.

Thank you, Madam President.