

49th Session of Industrial Development Board of UNIDO

Statement on Agenda Item 3:

[To be delivered by Mr Gyanveer Singh]

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

2. We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of the Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China under this Agenda item and would like to add the following points from our national perspective.

Madam President,

3. As a founder member of UNIDO, India has enjoyed a close association with the Organization. Over the decades, India has championed UNIDO's role in promotion of industrial development and regularly contributed to UNIDO's financial, managerial, and technical resources. India Country Programme represents the second largest UNIDO country portfolio with projects categorized under Green Industrial Development and Inclusive Economic Development. Since 1966, more than 400 UNIDO projects have been implemented in India. Besides our annual assessed contribution, India has also been making regular voluntary contributions to the Industrial Development Fund (IDF).

4. We have taken note of the Annual Report of the Director General. We commend Director General Li Yong and his UNIDO team's efforts for continuation of UNIDO's programme and adapting their implementation in face of restrictions and challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Delivery of 95% of its technical cooperation programme by UNIDO in 2020 is applaudable.

5. The Covid-19 Pandemic continues to threaten our economies and societies. The pandemic has been a stark reminder that in an interconnected and interdependent world, we succeed or fail together. The impact of the pandemic has severely tested the resilience of our populations and deepened economic insecurity and inequalities. The pandemic will have long-term impact on extreme poverty, food security, employment, trade, supply chains, investment flows and remittances.

6. India is in full agreement with the Director General Li Yong that the challenges of 2020 have reinforced that international cooperation and the institutions of the United Nations system are critical to addressing global crises. We remain convinced that only a collaborative approach can succeed in keeping us on track for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In its response to the pandemic, India has remained global in its outlook. India has extended medical-related assistance to various countries. India also supported the efforts of various countries in vaccinating their population by supplying more than 65 million doses of vaccines to 95 countries as of 12 July 2021.

7. Domestically too, India has been pro-active in its efforts to minimize the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. India has launched the world's largest vaccination programme using homegrown as well as other vaccines and has already administered more than 380 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines as on 12 July. Vaccination remains an integral pillar of the comprehensive strategy of Government of India for containment and management of the pandemic, along with Test, Track, Treat and adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour.

8. India, along with many other countries, has been vocal in support of temporarily suspending the intellectual property (IP) protections for coronavirus vaccines so that these vaccines may become available to the world especially developing countries in the global South, sooner than

currently anticipated. Thus, enabling us all to better prepare in the face of future waves of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Madam President,

9. We believe that the role of UNIDO will be even more important in the post-pandemic recovery efforts and in ensuring an inclusive and sustainable industrial development in developing countries while keeping the 2030 development agenda in sight.

10. India hosts UNIDO's Facility for International Cooperation on Inclusive and Sustainable Development (FICISID) in New Delhi. This centre facilitates cross-learnings, knowledge sharing apart from fostering projects and technology partnerships on inclusive and sustainable industrial development. We believe that the FICISID centre can be an important pillar in the UNIDO's 'build back better' strategy by strengthening the South-South and triangular cooperation. We urge the Director General to look into the functioning of the centre with a view to strengthen its resources and responsibilities.

I thank you, Madam President.