



**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 4: Report of the Programme and Budget Committee**

Madam President,

1. The Group of 77 and China expresses its thanks to Her Excellency Ms. Faouzia Mebarki of Algeria in her capacity as Chair of the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the Programme and Budget Committee for this Report of the Programme and Budget Committee.

2. The Group wishes to recall the points it had raised at the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the PBC, and reiterates the following:

(a) On Agenda item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2020:

As the Group had delivered a separate statement on this item earlier, we would simply take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to outgoing Director General LI Yong for his outstanding service to the Organization since 2013. The Group unreservedly commends Mr. LI for his innovative work in UNIDO, particularly on the introduction of the Country Programme and Programme for Country Partnership initiatives, as well as the timely response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which have bolstered the relevance of the Organization. The Group sincerely wishes Mr. LI the very best in his future endeavours.

(b) On Agenda item 4: Report of the External Auditor:

The Group strongly urges UNIDO to address the findings of the External Auditor for 2020, regardless of the level of importance and priority assigned to them in the report, as well as to work on closing the remaining unresolved findings of the previous audit year, as we consider all these recommendations particularly pertinent in ensuring that the Organization will function as efficiently and effectively as possible.

(c) On Agenda item 5: Financial situation of UNIDO, including unutilized balances of appropriations:

The Group continues to encourage Member States for timely payment of their contributions in full in order to maintain a healthy and stable financial outlook for the Organization even in face of the pandemic. A sufficient, assured and predictable funding is vital for UNIDO to effectively deliver its core mandate of SDG 9.

(d) On Agenda item 6: Report of the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues:

The Group also continues to appreciate the work of the Informal Working Group and we look forward to future discussions in the IWG on matters of importance to Member States, including the After-Service Health Insurance, technical cooperation challenges, and improving the timely and full collection of assessed contributions, considering the

circumstances that may hinder the ability of Member States to meet their financial obligations.

(e) On Agenda item 7: Programme and budgets, 2022-2023:

The Group recognizes the challenges working within limited resources, balancing savings and income with expenditures and obligations, and coping with shifting demands due to unforeseen circumstances, and encourages UNIDO to find a solution to ensure that the Organization is responsibly flexible in terms of moving resources between objects of expenditure to deal with future exigencies.

(f) On Agenda item 15: UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

The Group remains very concerned with the negative impact that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to have on many Member States, which cuts across all aspects of society and we believe UNIDO should also remain seized of this issue as we move forward. The Group has prepared a more comprehensive statement on this matter and this will be delivered when we take up the relevant agenda item.

(g) On Agenda item 16: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III):

As the Group has likewise prepared a full statement on this important matter, we simply wish to emphasize the need to continue to raise UNIDO's level of engagement with more African countries and the African Union, especially through the finalization of structure of the IDDA III Secretariat. We will elaborate on these matters during the appropriate agenda item.

3. With this statement, the Group of 77 and China takes notes of the Report of the Programme and Budget Committee.

Thank you, Madam President.