

Statement of Egypt

UNIDO GC 19 (29 November – 3rd December 2021) - General Debate

Mr. President

- It is my great pleasure to participate with you today in the nineteenth session of the General Conference of UNIDO, which is being held at a pivotal moment while the world is suffering from the repercussions of the COVID-19 Pandemic. This reasserts the importance that Egypt attaches to enhancing its efforts of collaboration with UNIDO and to realize the SDGs that the international community approved and accepted as a comprehensive framework to achieve the welfare and prosperity for all people.
- I would like to seize this opportunity to express our gratitude to Mr. Li Yong for his great effort over the last period in promoting ISID and the role of UNIDO on the various levels; and please let me extend our warm welcome to Mr. Gerd Muller on his appointment as UNIDO's new Director General, and wish him a great success for his new mission.
- I hope that together with Mr. Muller, UNIDO will be able to push forward the strategic partnership with Egypt and other member states to a new level, while hoping to emulate the successful model of industrial development achieved by Germany during the last decades.
- The strategic partnership between Egypt and UNIDO goes very deep, as UNIDO's projects in Egypt contribute significantly in achieving "Egypt's vision 2030", the trade and industry development strategy, Egypt's national structural reform Programme 2021-2024, and the MSMEs & Entrepreneurship National Strategy (2020-2025).
- UNIDO's approach in Egypt is very pragmatic as it follows the whole-of-government approach to enable horizontal coordination within the public sector and the private sector. It also follows an integrated framework to enable the green transition of the manufacturing sector combining regulation, firm level support, new technologies and skills enhancement for sustainable manufacturing. Moreover, UNIDO supports the Government of

Egypt in mainstreaming Industry 4.0 in all aspects of industrial development with a particular emphasis on competitive sectors.

- The close bond between Egypt and UNIDO has been further strengthened through signing the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) in April 2021. Egypt is the second Arab country that adopts the PCP. It is led by the Government of Egypt at the highest political level through the National Coordination Body chaired by Her Excellency. Niven Gamea, Egypt's Minister of Trade and Industry.
- PCP Egypt focuses on six components, which were selected due to their importance for contribution to the national development agenda, namely: (i) Industrial policy; (ii) Investment promotion; (iii) Green industry; (iv) Smart cities and sustainable industrial parks; (v) Value chains; and (vi) Mainstreaming industry 4.0, noting that currently there are 20 projects under execution, with a total budget of USD 36 million; and that our plan is to execute technical cooperation projects with a total budget of USD 190 million over the next five years.

Mr President,

- When it comes to the measures taken to counter the impact of COVID-19, Egypt has dealt with the crisis in a proactive and effective manner. The government took many measures to achieve this goal, and has cooperated with UNIDO to formulate a trusted blueprint for policy recommendations to facilitate a recovery that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient. This included a roadmap on inclusive and sustainable industrial development; promoting Egypt's participation in global and regional value chains and post COVID-19 industrial recovery; enhancing the readiness for the adoption of industry 4.0, while providing all kinds of assistance to the initiatives aiming to support women empowerment in industry, especially in the micro, small and medium enterprises, as well as the strategic foresight exercise on the manufacturing sector in the times of COVID-19.

Mr President,

- The latest technological advances requires undertaking a paradigm shift to include a 4IR roadmap in industrial policy. Thus, we hope to strategize with UNIDO possible initiatives to promote Egypt's readiness for the 4th Industrial Revolution.
- Additionally, it is important to mention that the Ministry of trade and Industry is focusing on Promoting the Green Industrial development through endorsing the more efficient use of energy and raw materials in industrial manufacturing processes, for example introducing solar water heating in the industrial activities, expanding the Solar panels production, establishing eco-industrial parks and industrial waste management platforms, and initiating Egypt's first green entrepreneurship program.
- In the past few years, the Ministry and UNIDO were able to achieve great results, some of which are:
 - **Saving 10,000,000 m³/ Year of water and 880 GWh/ Year of Energy in the Industrial sector.**
 - **Reduction of CO₂ Emission by 90,000 Tons/ Year**
 - **A reduction of Solid Waste by 15,000 Tons/ Year**
 - **Reaching an annual Saving of almost €25,000,000.**
- In this framework, it is important to point out that Egypt has sought and succeeded in hosting the next UN Climate Change Conference (COP 27), due to be held in November 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh, which reconfirms its commitment to the Green industrial development.

Mr President

- I would like to highlight that the goals of Egypt, in terms of cooperation with UNIDO during the coming period, focus essentially upon implementing the various components of the PCP, which will also be very relevant in Egypt's efforts to achieve its Sustainable Development Strategy for 2030, entitled:

“Egypt’s vision 2030”, as well as executing the roadmap of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, and MSMEs & entrepreneurship national strategy (2020-2025).

- This in our opinion reaffirms our commitment to improving the industrial sector’s ability to diversify, innovate, and advance the competitiveness of our products in the regional and global markets, as well as boosting the employment opportunities in the industrial field in Egypt.

- Finally, it is important to reconfirm that Egypt, with its inclusive and sustainable industrial development path, is confident that it can be one of UNIDO’s main gateways to Africa, and subsequently, we are more than prepared to further our cooperation with UNIDO, the member states and the international financial and developmental institutions to expand the collaboration on the regional and continental levels to achieve the desired industrial development outcomes.

Thank you very much.

