

**Statement of Pakistan during the 19th Session of the UNIDO General
Conference (29 November – 3 December 2021)**

Delivered by

H.E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher

Mr. President, (H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Mezghani, Permanent Representative of Tunisia)

1. Allow me to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election. You have our full support to steer this General Conference session to a successful conclusion.
2. Let me also convey our gratitude to the outgoing President of the 18th General Conference H.E. Eng. Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Industry of the United Arab Emirates, and his bureau, for their outstanding work.
3. We are thankful to the Secretariat for making all arrangements for organization of this General Conference in these challenging times.
4. Pakistan aligns itself with the statement of G77 and China.
5. Given the challenges and pressures caused by the Covid-19, industry all around the globe is under severe stress and decline. The impact is on industrial nations as well as on developing economies. Efforts to revive economic activities are frustrating due to lack of desired results. At this critical junction, UNIDO has a unique opportunity to guide and lead this global economy through innovative ideas, practical solutions and result-oriented policy interventions. This is possible only through rules-based multilateralism, mutually beneficial collaboration and deepened partnership amongst UNIDO Member States and strengthened cooperation with non-Member States.

Mr. President,

6. We appreciate UNIDO's initiative of arranging Global Consultations on circular economy which offers a promising solution to some of the most pressing

global challenges. We believe that these consultations would be helpful to promoting circular economy principles and practices in developing countries, identify barriers and challenges and suggest action-oriented solutions. In view of technological and financial constraints of developing countries, UNIDO should assist the Member States for transfer of clean and innovative technologies and arrangement of adequate and predictable financing for promotion of circular economy principles and practices.

7. Pakistan appreciates the role and support of donor countries. However, we would like to emphasize that such support should be corresponding to the demands of Members State and not driven by priorities of donors.

Mr. President,

8. In view of the risks posed by climate change to the realization of inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the implementation of Agenda 2030, we believe that UNIDO should develop a climate strategy to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of its activities related to climate change. However, UNIDO should not lose focus from its core mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development of developing countries.

9. Development is a win-win option for both developed and developing economies. Development divide coupled with digital divide must not be further widened. Global economy is interconnected and interdependent. Digitalization has further solidified this linkage. UNIDO must steer the harmonization and collaboration between developed and developing countries. Pakistan's IT industry is set to provide efficient effective and economic solutions to the challenges posed by digitalization.

Mr. President,

10. For developing nations like Pakistan, inclusive and sustainable industrialization plays a pivotal role not only in the economic development but also in the social development, through job creation that reduces poverty and helps to decrease inequalities which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19. Therefore, the role of institutions like UNIDO has become even more important for inclusive and sustainable industrialization of the developing countries.

Mr. President,

11. We acknowledge UNIDO's technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives both in the public and private sectors in Pakistan. So far, UNIDO has implemented over 50 projects in various areas for providing clean and sustainable energy, empowering women and youth and ensuring food safety through horticulture and fisheries development. UNIDO has assisted Pakistan for increasing competitiveness of our industry through testing, monitoring, standardization and certification for conformity assessment.

12. We appreciate UNIDO's support for development and effective implementation of the Country Programme of Pakistan for enhancing the competitiveness of our industrial enterprises.

13. We are also closely working with UNIDO for promotion of circular economy principles and practices in Pakistan for sustainable industrial development.

Mr. President,

14. Pakistan seeks UNIDO's continued help in promoting the competitiveness of local industry especially in the context of 4th industrial revolution. Pakistani industry is in dire need of upgradation and compliance to international best practices to face the challenges of 4th industrial revolution.

15. We are looking forward to enhance our cooperation with UNIDO for establishment of Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO), Industrial Intelligence and Governance Unit and Medical Waste Management project in Pakistan.

16. Pakistan has been resolutely and successfully confronting COVID-19 and taking all possible measures to strengthen the existing health system. Pakistan's public health, economic and poverty alleviation measures have been very effective to contain the pandemic. The Director General of the World Health Organisation also acknowledged Pakistan's efforts in fighting the COVID-19 underlining that Pakistan was one of the countries to learn from.

17. To conclude, I would like to reiterate Pakistan's deep appreciation for UNIDO's role and activities to achieve the objectives set out in Agenda 2030. We also reaffirm our support to UNIDO's activities in Pakistan.

I thank you Mr. President.
