

Statement Delivered by Dr. Illa Mainali, Charge d'Affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of Nepal to the UN, Vienna at the 19th Session of the UNIDO General Conference

29 November-3 December 2021

Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 19th session of the General Conference. I also take this opportunity to extend warm felicitations to all bureau members.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Gerd Muller on his appointment by this Conference as the Director General of UNIDO.

Nepal associates itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica on behalf of G77 and China.

I would like to add the following points on my national capacity.

Mr. President,

Nepal appreciates the efforts and tremendous work done by UNIDO towards promoting and accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development in member states.

Nepal aspires to achieve industrialization at a sustained pace to bring a meaningful transformation in the social and economic life of its people.

Nepal is gradually becoming an attractive investment destination for domestic and foreign investors.

We have undertaken several legal, institutional and procedural reforms for creating an enabling environment.

Enactment of Foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Act (FITTA), Public-Private Partnership and Investment Board Act (PPIBA), Industrial Enterprise Act, Special Economic Zone Act, Foreign Investment Policy, Mines and Mineral

Policy, Intellectual Property Right Policy and Amendment of Company Act are some major policy reforms made in recent years. Similarly, Nepal also offers several tax and export incentives.

Establishment of hedging fund, special economic zones, Industrial states and Industrial villages and the provision of One-Stop Service are some of the concrete steps taken by the Government to help doing business in Nepal. Nepal has significantly improved its ranking by moving up to 94 from 110 in Ease of Doing Business Report 2020.

Investment Board of Nepal, headed by the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister provides a 'one window service' to foreign investors to invest in Nepal easily. The Government of Nepal also organized the 'Nepal Investment Summit' in 2019 to promote Nepal as the investment destination.

Nepal's economic growth rate was projected to grow at a level of 4.01 percent in the current fiscal year with an expectation of gradual improvement in the health crisis but the widely spreading second-wave of the Covid-19 during the third quarter of the current fiscal year has become challenging in achieving the estimated growth rate.

Being a Landlocked Developing country (LLDC) and a country graduating from Least Developed Country (LDC), fast pace industrial development is a difficult task for Nepal. Achieving this kind of objective calls for a strengthened global partnership and support for LDCs and LLDCs. Such partnerships must be able to take effective measures to remove the weaknesses and constraints in the economies of such countries, and manage internal and external vulnerabilities they face, and attain structural transformation of their economic system.

I appreciate the effort made by UNIDO in organizing the UNIDO Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries last week which emphasized global partnership and has called for collaboration between UNIDO and various intergovernmental organizations as well as other development partners/agencies, to support LDCs in various ways.

In order to connect the LLDCs like Nepal equally in the global supply chain, UNIDO can play a central role. UNIDO is a powerful instrument to bring all stakeholders together to accomplish our common objectives of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

In conclusion, let me reiterate Nepal's commitment to supporting the activities of UNIDO. I call upon UNIDO, member states and all other global partners to join hands together to create a better world.

Thank you!