

**Statement by Ambassador YOON Yeonjean,
Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea,
at the 19th Session of the UNIDO General Conference**

1 December 2021, Vienna

Madam President, Director-General of UNIDO, Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives of Member States,

I join other delegations in extending my sincere congratulations to you, Madam President, on your election as Vice President of the nineteenth General Conference. My delegation has every confidence that, with the benefit of his outstanding leadership, we will achieve much needed success at this important conference.

The Republic of Korea welcomes this opportunity to share the vision on inclusive and sustainable industrial development, or ISID, and our partnership vis-à-vis UNIDO against the backdrop of Covid-19. I would like to share this with you from three perspectives: the first is what we *aspire to*, the second is what we *look forward to*, and the third is what we are *committed to*.

First, in the emerging post-COVID-19 era, the Republic of Korea *aspires to* emerge as a nation that plays an even greater role for the inclusive recovery of all.

If there is one lesson humanity has learned in the face of global crisis of such a huge scale, it is that *inclusiveness and solidarity* are keys. The coronavirus knows no borders. It does not discriminate on the grounds of gender, race nor religion. The efforts of any single country alone can be no guarantee of a way out. In the process of moving forward from COVID-19, we need to be inclusive and leave no one behind.

This is precisely why I would like to reaffirm our strong commitment to continue to support and expand UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnership. I encourage UNIDO and other Member States to follow suit to include more Member States bringing new opportunities for future cooperation.

For our part, we have been witnessing steady and meaningful progress in the capacity-building project with Cambodia on industrial development policy. We are ready and willing to share the lessons we have learnt from experience – both the successes and the failures. To echo what my President stated at the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, Korea will take the lead in presenting a vision for partnership and co-existence, which can be embraced by both developed and developing countries.

Secondly, we *look forward to* UNIDO's greater engagement with vulnerable people of our society. Indeed they are more vulnerable to new and emerging threats.

The parts of our society that have been hit hardest by this pandemic are low-income families, the elderly, and especially women. With the advent of these increasing inequalities, UNIDO has an even more significant role to play than ever. It is called upon to fulfill its responsibilities as a specialized agency of the United Nations to advance economic competitiveness in the developing countries, create shared prosperity, and work towards building a better future for all.

My delegation would also like to reiterate the importance of women's empowerment in promoting ISID. The empowerment of women has a force multiplier effect. In the Republic of Korea, women are playing a leading role not only in civil society but also in the political and economic fields, and in fact in all aspects of life. We fully support UNIDO's continued efforts to

mainstream a gender perspective in its various development programs. We also welcome the Secretariat's decision to hold a special 'Gender Equality Mobilization Award' ceremony to carry this spirit forward.

Thirdly, we are *committed* to playing a leading role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals—in particular, the SDG 9.

Madam President, SDG 9 is a central element for an effective recovery from this pandemic. The Republic of Korea is reinforcing employment and social safety nets to realize an inclusive recovery. In promoting the “Korean New Deal” policy, the Republic of Korea plans to expand its ODA and initiatives in green, digital, and healthcare areas—areas that have seen a clear surge in demand during the pandemic.

Indeed we are taking this strategy forward in cooperation with UNIDO as well. In particular, I would like to invite your special attention to the project on the development of the STI (science, technology and innovation) strategic framework, which has entered its second year of operation this year. This project with UNIDO has potential to contribute to shaping and developing the right strategies and approaches that will help developing countries advance closer towards attaining SDGs much sooner. We are committed, and are happy, to take on a role to this end.

I would like to emphasize once again that the Republic of Korea is and always will be a wholehearted supporter of UNIDO. We will sincerely stand by its side on the journey of realizing ISID and making it a tangible reality for all. I thank you Madam President. /END/