

**STATEMENT OF THE AFRICA GROUP DURING THE 19<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF THE UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE, 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER TO 3<sup>RD</sup>  
DECEMBER 2021, DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR FAOUZIA  
MEBARKI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIA**

**Tribute message for Mr. LI Yong, outgoing Director General of  
UNIDO**

**Mr. President,**

1. On behalf of the Africa Group, I wish to express our deepest appreciation to Mr. LI Yong for his commitment and exemplary leadership during his tenure as Director General of UNIDO. His steadfast management of the organization including at the outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic, cannot go unmentioned as it ensured business continuity.

2. The Group also wishes to commend Mr. LI Yong for his commitment to achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, which UNIDO is implementing in Africa, through the IDDA III, the Programme for Country Partnerships and the Country Programmes. It is envisioned that these critical programmes will have immeasurable impact in developing countries, and as he always said it – **no one is left behind and everyone in society has to benefit from industrial progress.**

3. Mr. LI Yong was always at the forefront in ensuring that UNIDO contributed to the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda. From streamlining the operations of the organization, to introducing initiatives on key aspects such as climate change action, green and circular economy, Industry 4.0, gender, youth and women involvement in development.

4. As we bid farewell to Mr. LI Yong today, the Africa Group once again thanks him for his outstanding work in UNIDO, and wishes him all the very best in his future endeavours.

**I thank you, Mr. President.**