



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED
BY
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

19th SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA
NOVEMBER 2021**

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

Mr President,

South Africa expresses its sincere appreciation to Mr Li Yong for his dedication, tireless work and astute leadership in helming UNIDO over the past eight years.

Throughout the years Mr Li Yong has repositioned the organization as a strategic partner of Member States and a respectable player within the United Nations system by leading it with professionalism and a keen sense of empathy through challenging times, with particular reference to the COVID-19 global pandemic and financial difficulties.

Mr Li Yong's commitment in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development has steered many countries towards the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

South Africa expresses its gratitude for the key role Mr Li Yong has played in the implementation of the Third Industrial Decade for Africa (IDDAIII) and the innovative flagship programmes of multi-stakeholder partnership seen in the Country Programme (CP) and Programme for Country Partnership (PCP).

We wish Mr. Li Yong much success in his future endeavours.

I thank you.