

**Statement by the delegation of Armenia on General debate  
at the 19<sup>th</sup> session of General Conference of the  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
as delivered by Mr. Arman Khachatryan, Director of Department of Multilateral  
Policy and Development Cooperation of the  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia**

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you on your election and assure you of our delegation's full support throughout the Conference.

I would also like to once again warmly congratulate Dr. Gerd Müller on his appointment as Director General of the UNIDO and assure of Armenia's cooperation in implementation of his important mission. We also take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to the outgoing Director General Mr. Li Yong for his leadership and dedication.

Mr. President,

As this year we mark the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNIDO, deliberations in the framework of the General Conference offer a timely opportunity to reflect upon achievements and discuss the challenges and our collective efforts aimed at shaping the ways to getting back on track towards the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

The unprecedented global health crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and its socio-economic consequences, threaten to roll back hard-won development gains. From the very beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Armenia has been vocal in its support to relevant multilateral institutions. All essential health products to combat the virus must be available to all, particularly the vaccines against COVID-19 which are a global public good.

Meanwhile the Covid-19 was not the only challenge that Armenia had to face in the past year. Enormous humanitarian needs emerged as a result of last year's war against Nagorno-Karabakh, which had a massive impact on the development efforts of Armenia. The 44-day war and its consequences created significant pressure on existing response capacities, including in the social, health and economic systems.

Mr. President,

Armenia values its long-standing and constructive cooperation with UNIDO in many areas of inclusive and sustainable development, including industrial development; promotion of green and circular economy, environmental management and enhancement of sustainable agribusiness.

The Government of Armenia and the UNIDO have recently signed the Country Programme (CP) for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Armenia 2022-2026, focusing on sustainable economic transformation, industrial diversification and digitalization based on innovations and technology transfer.

Mr. President,

We welcome and support the efforts of UNIDO aimed at promoting circular economy as an essential tool to address the development challenges caused by climate change.

Transition towards circularity and more effective management of resources, more productivity through innovative practices, sustainable consumption and production patterns is among priorities of the Armenian government. We look forward to continuing global consultations on circular economy as a suitable framework for highlighting the existing challenges, seeking solutions and exchanging the best practices.

As a middle-income country, Armenia faces specific development needs, which necessitates a tailor-made approach and elaboration of a comprehensive set of criteria, in particular when it comes to facilitation of technology transfer, conducive investment climate and supporting policies that are crucial for advancing industrial development access.

The UNIDO, through the implementation of its Strategic Framework for partnering with middle-income countries, should be an important partner in facilitating coordinated multi-stakeholder efforts towards promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in MICs through technology advancement, human capital and environmental sustainability.

Digital technologies are important drivers and accelerators of development. They have been rapidly transforming societies by enabling more inclusive and people-centered forms of governance and models of communication. Investing in young people's talent, skills and entrepreneurship, developing high tech industry and innovation ecosystem are amongst the strategic priorities of the government of Armenia, with a focus on the impact of "smart" development.

Armenia remains committed to further cooperation with UNIDO in upholding the role of digital technologies as a means to accelerate the achievement of SDG9.

Mr. President,

Armenia fully supports the implementation of UNIDO's gender equality vision. We are strongly convinced that full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires renewed commitment towards mainstreaming gender equality across all sectors. In this regard we welcome UNIDO's Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2020-2023.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Armenia's strong commitment to the effective and result-oriented cooperation with UNIDO and all other partners in promoting sustainable and inclusive industrial development, accelerating the implementation of 2030 Agenda and SDGs in line with the collective pledge to leave no one behind.

I thank you.