

TRIBUTE STATEMENT for
MR. LI YONG
Outgoing Director General of UNIDO
19th Session of the General Conference
29 November to 3 December 2021
Vienna, Austria

Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the Philippine delegation, I wish to convey our deepest gratitude to Mr. Li Yong for his very able leadership of UNIDO over the last eight years. The dynamism and innovations he has introduced since taking the helm in 2013 have undoubtedly propelled the Organization to new heights in fulfilling UNIDO's mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
2. The Philippines recalls that when DG Li entered office, UNIDO had five ongoing projects in the country. Now, as he prepares to depart, there are twelve programmes being undertaken in the Philippines, all aimed at uplifting our development capacity with a strong focus on environmental responsiveness.
3. We also highlight that under DG Li's watch, the Philippines signed its first Country Programming Framework with UNIDO in November 2018, which he helped speed along through a country visit in June of that same year. It is worth underscoring that this CP has been key in launching a timely project to address the Philippines' response to the COVID-19 health crisis. The positive impact of these projects cannot be understated.
4. As DG Li's term draws to a close, we look back on his many achievements, including the institution of the landmark Programme for Country Partnership and a results-based budgeting and programming system as watershed moments for UNIDO and feathers in his cap.
5. With this, the Philippines sincerely wishes DG Li Yong all the best in his future endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. President.