

Congratulatory statement of the G-77 and China at the 17th session of the UNIDO General Conference, 27 November – 1 December 2017, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Reza Najafi, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the Vienna Chapter of the Group of 77

Vienna, 27 November 2017

Madam President, [H.E. Ms. Alena KUPCHYNA, PR of Belarus]

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China allow me to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 17th session of the UNIDO General Conference, as well as other members of the bureau on their election. The Group is confident that with your experience and diplomatic skills, we will have a very successful session. The Group also takes this opportunity to convey its special thanks to the outgoing bureau for the commendable work. The Group wishes to thank the Secretariat for the organization of this Conference, including making available the relevant documents in a timely manner.
2. The Group would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. LI Yong for his reappointment as Director General of UNIDO for a second term. The Group expresses its appreciation for his leadership and outstanding efforts throughout the past 4 years.
3. During his first term of office, Mr. LI Yong has guided the Organization with his dynamic leadership and has managed to overcome many of the challenges that the Organization is facing, by working on restructuring the UNIDO from inside, and introducing new field policy action plan to overcome the financial challenges that resulted from withdrawals from the Organization.
4. He has managed to help the Organization rediscover its potential through introducing new perspectives based on the concept of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. It is through this vision that the Organization has witnessed new programs like the PCPs and has been able to restore its status as one of the important developmental organizations in the UN system.
5. He also worked to engage UNIDO in the different global and regional fora, which resulted in giving the Organization its new mandate on Goal 9, among other goals, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
6. The Group is certain that Mr. LI Yong's re-election will provide an opportunity for the Organization to further benefit from his meritorious skills.
7. The Group of 77 and China remains fully committed to support UNIDO's work and endeavors in the years to come.

Thank you Madam President.