

**Statement by the Delegation of Sri Lanka  
at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Industrial Development Board (IDB)  
of the United Nations Organization for Industrial Development (UNIDO)  
25-27 November 2014**

*(To be delivered by H.E. Mr. A.L.A. Azeez, Permanent Representative)*

Mr. President,

On behalf of the delegation of Sri Lanka, let me to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the UNIDO's Industrial Development Board and extend my fullest support to your endeavours. My delegation is confident that under your able leadership, we will have a very successful session. My congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau.

At the outset, let me express our deep appreciation to Director General Mr. LI Yong and to the Secretariat, for their tireless efforts in organizing this IDB meeting and preparing its documents.

My delegation associates itself with the Statements made by the distinguished Representative of the Philippines on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

My delegation supports UNIDO's promotion of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, especially its contribution towards alleviating poverty and implementing the post-2015 Development Agenda. In this regard, we recall the provisions of the Lima Declaration and welcome UNIDO hosting two Forums on ISID this year. While appreciating the leadership given by Director General Li Yong, in placing ISID effectively within the development discourse of the United Nations. I also take the opportunity to complement UNIDO Member States which have supported this effort with dedication and consistency.

ISID is an important concept. However, elements of ISID have existed in their individual self or sphere, even before Lima, which however gave the concept an aura of formality and recognition. The importance of these elements needs to be acknowledged and promoted for their intrinsic role in advancing specific aspects of industrialization. This is especially so because Member States have varied socio-economic conditions which need to be addressed by adopting the appropriate development models.

Sri Lanka shares the view that ISID is a key factor in the new global development framework - the post 2015 Development Agenda, including the promotion of economic growth and employment for men and women, in a sustainable environment, especially through programmes aimed at youth empowerment through entrepreneurship.

Mr. President,

South-South and North-South Co-operation as well as triangular cooperation remain the way forward for making development in general, and industrial development in particular, possible in the current context. The promotion of best practices and technology transfer will further enhance this cooperation. Strengthening partnerships and knowledge sharing for greater impact of UNIDO's initiatives in developing nations, is thus, essential.

Sri Lanka notes the efforts made by the Organisation to contribute towards environmental activities, including international initiatives on resource efficient and cleaner production and projects on management of water and waste, among others.

We are pleased that UNIDO plays and continues to play a significant role in promoting environmental activities through knowledge and technical support initiatives and by strengthening national capacities.

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka notes the valuable contribution of UNIDO towards ensuring global recognition of energy as a key driver for development. We call upon UNIDO to further expand its projects in this field and identify and implement more projects promoting industrial energy efficiency, renewable energy for industrial uses and clean technologies.

As with the countries which have spoken before, it is a concern for Sri Lanka that the Statement of Financial Performance for the year 2013 indicates a decline in total revenues over the previous year, for which a contributory factor is the 20.26% decrease in voluntary contributions. This situation needs to improve, and we are pleased that the Director General and the staff are addressing this situation with much concern.

Thank you Mr. President.

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