

Mr. Chairman.....

His Excellency, LI Yong, UNIDO Director General

Honorable Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am highly pleased to be among you today, participating at the sixteenth session of General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Organization.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am here to renew our commitment to inclusive and sustainable industrial development, (ISID). Today's session is a unique platform to further strengthen cooperation among regions.

Excellencies; Ladies and Gentleman:

Inclusive and sustainable industrial development and domestic production lays the foundation of a growing economy and sustainability in a country.

Today all the developed countries of the world have reached to their state of prosperity, success and self-sufficiency through sustainable industrial development.

Unfortunately, three decades of foreign interference and conflict have inflicted deep scars of pain on the people of Afghanistan. Besides imposing a complex set of challenges including terrorism, socio-economic deprivation, drug production and trafficking, the weak state institution and industrial infrastructure have besieged the country.

Excellencies:

Despite all the challenges, Afghanistan has come a long way in laying the foundations for a normal socio-economic life. We have revised our economic system and embarked on an ambitious project of revising and modernizing our legal system. We have made regional economic cooperation the cornerstone of Afghanistan's economic growth and sustainable development.

We have joined all regional economic forums and committed ourselves to important regional energy projects.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since 2001, Afghanistan has had exceptional economic growth rate up to 11 percent which has been the highest growth rate in similar economies of the region.

Afghanistan's economic growth has been fueled by financial aid from International Community.

Unfortunately, Industries have not had significant contribution in the process of economic development because Afghanistan's industry sector has not received the required attention in the past.

Afghanistan has the potential for industrial production and to become an important industrial center in the region. There have been many obstacles and reasons for lack of industrial growth including the ones that I mentioned earlier. But we believe with the right set of strategy and policy framework and political resolve, we can overcome all the challenges and obstacles hampering industrial development.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished ladies and gentlemen:

The leadership of National Unity Government is committed to the achievement of the socio – economic progress and industrial development in our country.

We have developed the industrial policy and currently working on a framework for its successful implementation. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development comprise a big portion of our strategic plan.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry has reviewed and updated the legal framework for business in Afghanistan.

We allow flexible foreign ownership of enterprises, easy repatriation of profits, treat foreign investors identically to domestic ones, and we allow accelerated depreciation as well as tax holiday.

Similarly, the newly revised Mining Law of 2010 makes it significantly easier to invest in extractive industries. It streamlines bidding processes and has reduced royalties.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The weaving of carpets is Afghanistan's oldest industry. Afghan carpets are world renown for their quality and are produced at a competitive price. However, this industry is for the most part stuck at the lower end of the value chain. Much of the value add is done outside of the country where cutting and washing of the carpets usually take place.

There are opportunities to repatriate this activity; introduce nontraditional designs and improve the marketing and export of these handmade carpets.

Allow me to finish my statement by reiterating the significance of inclusive and industrial development in the achievement of broader social and economic development goals which are the prerequisites of prosperity, peace and stability.

Thank you for your attention!