

**Statement of the Asia and Pacific Group
for the 16th General Conference of the
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
30 November–4 December 2015 – Vienna**

Delivered by the
Delegation of the Republic of Korea
in its capacity as the Chair of the Asia and Pacific Group

Mr. President,
Distinguished Heads of State and Government,
Director General Li Yong,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group, I would like to congratulate Your Excellency on your election as President of the 16th General Conference of UNIDO. The Group thanks the Secretariat for its preparations for this session, and we welcome the opening remarks delivered with such passion by Director General Li Yong. We are confident that under his able leadership, UNIDO will enhance its role as a leading international development organization at a time when the international community is renewing its commitment to sustainable development.

2. Last September, the international community adopted an ambitious new agenda to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. In this regard, the Group welcomes the inclusion of Goal 9 “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation” within the set of integrated and indivisible Sustainable Development Goals as a historic moment for UNIDO. In this context, the theme of the 16th session of the Conference, “Sustainable industrialization for shared prosperity,” is timely and appropriate. We look forward to a constructive session that facilitates a tangible and substantial contribution by UNIDO to the global efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

3. In this regard, we take note of the document GC.16/4 on the forum on industrial development issues. We hope that incorporating the fourth UNIDO ISID Forum under the theme “Partnerships: Moving Sustainable Development Goal 9 into action” into the General Conference plenary will contribute to global understanding and appreciation of the importance of ISID for economic growth and development as well as the UNIDO’s mission and its role in the 2030 agenda. The Group also hopes that the second UNIDO Donor Meeting will provide participants with the opportunities to fully understand the present and the future of UNIDO’s technical cooperation programmes in implementing the 2030 development agenda and ISID.

Mr. President,

4. The Group strongly believes that UNIDO—with its mandate as a specialized agency promoting industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability—must remain responsive to the needs and requirement of all Member States. Within developing countries we consider it particularly important for UNIDO to continue its efforts to create capacities to enable them to emerge as effective manufacturing and trading partners in the global market. UNIDO should also recognize and address the needs of Member States in accordance with their own developmental strategies and choices.

5. In this regard, we have reviewed the *Annual Report 2014* and note the progress towards objectives set by the Director General at the strategic, operational and management levels. At the strategic level, it is apparent that efforts to promote ISID are already bearing fruit. At the operational level, the introduction of the partnership-based modality for the provision of UNIDO’s services should result in increased teamwork within UNIDO and enhanced collaboration with external partners to maximize development impact. At the management level, we look forward to further increases in

the effectiveness and efficiency of UNIDO operations in order to ensure that the Organization provides the best possible value to its Member States and other stakeholders.

Mr. President,

6. The Group takes note of the financial situation of UNIDO as outlined in document GC.16/5. Now at just 73.3 per cent, the 2015 collection rate of assessed contributions continues a downward trend from previous year. The availability of sufficient, assured and predictable levels of resources will be especially important in light of the expansion of UNIDO's mandate and growing demand for its services. We therefore urge all Member States, as well as former Member States, that have yet to pay their outstanding contributions or settle their financial liabilities to do so in full and without delay. We encourage the Director General and the Secretariat to spare no effort in encouraging States to reduce their outstanding contributions.

7. The Group would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Kay Scheller, President of the German Supreme Audit Institution, for his excellent work as External Auditor of UNIDO. His observations and recommendations have contributed to the improvement of the financial management and control of UNIDO, and we look forward to his continuing service over the next two years.

Mr. President,

8. The Group has reviewed document GC.16/6 outlining the Director General's action plan concerning the field policy and field network. We note with satisfaction the plan's guiding principles, including efficient utilization of available resources, the projected cost savings of the proposed field structure for the biennium 2016–2017 and the goal to increase coherence and empowerment of the field network as a whole while aligning UNIDO's resources and operations with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development at all levels. We hope that these efforts to make efficient use of existing mechanisms will be conducive to revitalizing the function of UNIDO despite the lack of resources. We expect that the Secretariat will provide an update on a regular basis to Member States in order to ensure their full support.

9. The Group takes note of the report by the Director General on the “Implementation of the Lima Declaration: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development” contained in document GC.16/7. We note with satisfaction the progress towards achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development as well as strengthening existing and forging new partnerships. With ISID explicitly included in the 2030 Development Agenda for Sustainable Development, we look forward to an even greater global role for UNIDO in supporting and monitoring progress towards the effective integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. We also welcome the pilot implementation of the Programme for Country Partnerships (PCP) in Ethiopia and Senegal. When the PCP is ready to be expanded to additional countries, we believe that geographic representation should be considered as a significant factor.

10. The Group also takes note of document GC.16/12 containing the Director General’s report on UNIDO activities in support of least developed countries (LDC). We support these activities and welcome that from 2012 to 2014, nearly all LDCs in Asia benefited from UNIDO’s TC services aimed at supporting the implementation and mainstreaming of both ISID and UNIDO’s LDC Strategy and Operational Plan 2012–2020.

11. The Group takes note of the UNIDO activities related to energy and the environment as outlined in the documents GC.16/9 and GC.16/10, respectively. As sustainable energy is one of the key factors required for addressing social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable

development, we commend UNIDO for seeking to strengthen its role as a catalyst for increasing industrial energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy for industrial applications and productive uses. We also note that UNIDO has restructured its service delivery in the areas of energy and environment in early 2015, forming an Environment Branch for more effective technical cooperation regarding the Organization's ISID mandate.

12. We hope that this mandate and these changes will increase the relevance of UNIDO's environmental services and that efforts to strengthen the impact of these services on industrial development will be intensified. UNIDO's partnerships with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All), and key national and international stakeholders in industry, the public sector, and academia will be important in this regard.

13. The Group further takes note of the UNIDO activities related to cooperation with middle-income countries (MIC) in document GC.16/13. With the middle income trap still very much a reality for many MICs, we attach great importance to UNIDO's work with MICs to implement the SDGs, particularly Goal 9 and other SDGs related to the Organization's activities, and the need to tailor future United Nations strategic frameworks in MICs to the development challenges of diverse MIC subgroups.

Thank you, Mr. President. /END/