



In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

STATEMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
FOR THE 16th GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
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by

H.E. Mr. Reza Najafi,

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**Madam President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me, at the outset, to congratulate you, Madam President, on your election as the President of this important gathering. I'm confident that under your able leadership the meeting will achieve significant results in advancing the Organization's agenda and goals. I would also like to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation during this meeting of the General Conference.

Industry is one of the major economic sectors and constitutes the prerequisite for economic growth and development in all countries, without which no sustainable development will occur. In a given country economic gateway opens its arms to sustainable economic development once an industrial appropriate ground and a significant investment for industrial development are prepared, since industrial development is a must for development of other sectors.

Technological advancement is among main factors for Industrial and economic development and results from better ways of implementing traditional tasks and using new tools to replace physical force. Currently, research centers, and knowledge-based companies have gained numerous achievements that industry should employ them for expansion of innovations, due to the fact that using these methods certainly imposes less costs to industry. As it was emphasized by the Director General, UNIDO plays a crucial role in supporting countries to move towards higher degrees of economic growth, social inclusiveness and environmental sustainability.

Madam President,

As you are well aware, Iran is fraught with enormous potentials of natural resources, including oil, gas, mines, educated and skilled human resources as well as adequate infrastructures. Unfortunately due to the inhumane and cruel sanctions imposed on my country during past years, there has been no possibility of broader cooperation and collaboration between Iran and other countries as well as international organizations such as UNIDO.

In this regard and in the light of imminent implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was successfully concluded between Iran and EU/E3+3 Countries here in Vienna in last July, we hope that a favorable and conducive ground to be created for expansion of commercial and industrial activities between Iran and other countries as well as international organizations in coming years. In near future, we will be certainly witnessing the arrival of investors and technical knowledge from various countries to Iran since my country is aiming at converting industry to knowledge-based industry.

Given the forthcoming removal of sanctions against my country, the UNIDO should also accelerate the implementation of its joint projects with Iran, particularly those with humanitarian aspects.

Madam President,

The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to increase the country's industrial growth in the 6th five-year national plan using state-of-art technologies. In this regard, areas such as research and training are of great importance. Applied knowledge is one of the most central goals of my government and by creating a conducive environment as well as a set of incentives for companies, in our view, technological knowledge-based production will flourish more than ever in Iran.

At present, there are up to 1650 registered knowledge based companies in Iran and in future this will be increased to 5,000. Iran ranks seventh among countries on nanotechnology and in the meantime the Materials and Energy Research Center in Iran has been selected as Islamic world nanotechnology center.

On the other hand, some of Iranian powerful companies are implementing various projects in the Middle East, Central Asia and Latin America and we do hope that this kind of industrial cooperation to be boosted more than before.

Furthermore, there are a lot of opportunities and capacities in Iran that could be provided for other countries by UNIDO or through bilateral agreements.

In conclusion, Madam President, I would like to, once again, express my country's readiness for further collaboration and cooperation in the field of industrial development with all other interested parties and through UNIDO without any limitations and restrictions with a view to enhance international cooperation and partnership to the benefit of all nations.

Thank you Madam President,