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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE TO THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNIDO GENERAL
CONFERENCE

Vienna, 30 November – 4 December

Delivered by Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

I am pleased to send greetings to all participants at this milestone sixtieth General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

This gathering comes at a critical juncture. The world is facing multiple humanitarian crises. More than 60 million people have fled their homes – a record since the Second World War. Conflicts continue to rage, destabilizing fragile regions. Violent extremism presents one of the gravest security threats of our time. Poverty, discrimination and preventable disease still afflict hundreds of millions of people.

These challenges, while daunting, can be met if countries and peoples rise to the moment.

World leaders have just adopted the Sustainable Development Goals. Negotiators are now headed to Paris to reach a meaningful new agreement on climate change. Progress on these fronts can help boost human rights and security.

The imperatives of sustainable development and climate change are closely linked to each other – and to industrialization.

This is recognized in SDG 9 on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation. UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnerships model shows how to mobilize coalitions for sustainable development.

Industries engaged in responsible business practices and promoting sustainable growth are critical to eradicating poverty. Progress will help diversify economies, promote technological innovation and spark economic synergies.

We need to work with partners in industry to create momentum for environmental sustainability by protecting the planet's resources, promoting sustainable consumption and production, and transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

I count on UNIDO to continue demonstrating leadership for inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

In this spirit, I wish you great success.