

STATEMENTS OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP
TO BE DELIVERED AT THE 44th SESSION OF THE UNIDO
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD, 22-24 NOVEMBER 2016

GENERAL STATEMENT

Madame President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group Member States of UNIDO.

The Group congratulates the new President, Amb. Maria Zeneida Angara Collinson, and the others on their election to the IDB on its 44th Session. The Group thanks the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Song Young-wan, and his team for their excellent work. Let me assure you of the Group's full cooperation and support in achieving a productive outcome for our session.

The Group wishes to congratulate UNIDO on its 50th Anniversary and takes note of its many achievements over the past decades, its contribution to global development, and most of all its work in developing countries and economies in transition. UNIDO has indeed made a difference, particularly in the lives of the people of the Asia-Pacific Region, through interventions and technical cooperation programs, such as provision of assistance to small-scale businesses to be able to

meet global social and environmental standards, detoxification of arsenic from drinking water supplies in communities, and promotion of sound chemical management in small-scale mining communities, to name a few.

The Group also wishes to highlight that the Republic of Maldives, wherein a UNIDO project on market access and trade facilitation support has been ongoing since 2007, graduated from being a least-developed country in 2011. The role of UNIDO in this achievement therefore cannot be under appreciated.

Madame President,

The Asia-Pacific Region is home to over one-third of the world's population. Despite noteworthy economic advances however, poverty incidence remains high and the benefits of economic growth has not seeped down to be inclusive and universally beneficial.

The Group is of the view that industrial development, which leads to job creation, is key to alleviating the millions living in poverty, particularly in the Asia-Pacific Region. As the primary UN Agency responsible for inclusive and sustainable industrial development, UNIDO's role in fulfilling the mandate of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is to ensure that "no one is left behind", is all the more relevant. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development has in fact been articulated as one of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this

regard, the Group affirms its solid and unwavering commitment to support the Director-General and the Secretariat in our inexorable march to meet these goals.

The Group notes that the Asia-Pacific Region is home to 15 UNIDO field offices and that, as a result of the field network readjustment, some field offices have been classified as regional hubs, regional offices, and country offices with either an international or national staff.

The Group understands that the adjustment to UNIDO's field network is of a remedial and temporary nature meant to strengthen the Organization's financial standing. However, the readjustment must not adversely affect the delivery of technical cooperation services and the level of assistance given to Member States.

The Group is of the view that all field offices should have equal access to UNIDO decision-makers for them to be able to effectively create positive interventions and deliver results, most particularly to their areas of jurisdiction. The Group also requests the Director-General to periodically evaluate, perhaps every two years, the field network policy to assess its effectiveness and efficiency. The Group is of the view that the field network readjustment should not come at the expense of the fulfillment of UNIDO's mandate in ensuring industrial development in its Member States.

The Group commends the Director-General for his tireless efforts in leading the administration of UNIDO to fulfill its goals in the face of a myriad of challenges the Organization is currently facing. The Group will continue supporting and actively participating in UNIDO's activities and calls on all Member States to support the Organization in the next half century and beyond including through exerting efforts to make the Organization attractive again for those Member States that have withdrawn.

Thank you Madame Chair