

**Statement of Mr. LI Yong**  
**Director General**  
**United Nations Industrial Development**  
**Organization**  
**at the**  
**Closing of the**  
**44<sup>th</sup> Session of the**  
**Industrial Development Board**

24 November 2016

Vienna, Austria

Madam President of the Industrial Development Board,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Colleagues and Friends,

Good morning,

Allow me, first of all, to express my sincere gratitude to you, Madam President, and to your Bureau for the effective conduct of the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the Industrial Development Board, which has allowed us to successfully conclude our meeting ahead of schedule. Allow me to also thank the delegates of the Member States in attendance of this session of the Board.

You have spent much of your valuable time deliberating on many important issues, and reiterated your support to UNIDO and its ISID mandate in the context of the 2030 Agenda. You have just adopted a number of important decisions for our Organization, with valuable contributions from all of you, for which I am most thankful.

I would also like to warmly thank you and your delegations for your active participation in, and generous contribution to, the 22 side events, panel debates and workshops throughout this celebratory week, showcasing UNIDO's contribution to the five Ps of the 2030 Agenda.

The extraordinary attendance of high-level representatives to this 50th Anniversary week is yet another remarkable testament to the support and commitment of our Member States and partners to UNIDO, to this Organization, and our ISID mandate. Among the high-level participants, 32 Ministers attended various events in the programme, as well as 10 heads of United Nations agencies, Development Financial Institutions and other high profile international organizations.

I am very, very happy also with the wide participation of the private sector in our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities.

Your Excellencies,

Colleagues,

Friends,

This week, I am very, very pleased to have had bilateral meetings with 21 Ministers, as well as 10 representatives of the private sector, and signed 6 project and funding agreements between UNIDO and new as well as traditional partners.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our distinguished guests, the Crown Prince of Bahrain, the Chancellor of Austria, 21 Ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers from two Member countries, as well as our private sector partners, including the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Bank of China, the Bank of Khartoum, Deutsche Messe, Fransabank Group, Infopia 21, Intel, the Islamic Development Bank, Tamkeen, and VDMA.

I would also like to acknowledge the continuous support we receive from our member countries. On the margins of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, we signed an agreement with Germany to establish an Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Bonn; a funding agreement with Norway under the Private Financing Advisory Network programme; a trust fund agreement with the Austrian Development Agency on support for the new Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency; and agreements with Japan to fund African geothermal power generation and further strengthen the UNIDO-Japan LCET Programme. Our Country Programmes in Afghanistan, Cambodia and the Islamic Republic of Iran are but a few more examples further demonstrating our Member State support.

Such active participation from so many stakeholders, colleagues, confirms the importance of this truly successful event.

As I mentioned in my opening statement, this week's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration has provided us with an opportunity to reflect on our history and celebrate our achievements, and also to sharpen our strategies to address the challenges of tomorrow. I am particularly grateful for the kind words of celebration for our landmark anniversary and further encouragement expressed by the Board during this session. They reinforce the message that this Organization makes a critical contribution to the achievement of the SDGs, as well as to its follow up and review.

This session of the Industrial Development Board has proven that, despite our challenges, we have achieved a lot in 2016, which was a very important year for us as it marked the first year of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. We have continued the alignment of our activities with the SDGs framework, including the Global Indicators framework. We have further mainstreamed the three dimensions of sustainable development in our programmatic activities through enhanced implementation of partnership. We have implemented our comprehensive policy and further relaunched our commitment on gender equality and the empowerment of women. We have also fine-tuned the setup of our Integrated Results and Performance Framework as another step towards excellence in transparency, efficiency and effectiveness, all of which are essential elements of a relevant, successful, results-oriented and dynamic Organization that UNIDO is today.

In my opening statement I stressed how UNIDO Member States, staff and partners share the responsibility to further intensify efforts to advance our ISID agenda. These efforts will be rewarded: there is no doubt that we are facing a great opportunity. The realization within the next generation of our vision of inclusive and sustainable industrial development is today closer than ever to become reality, thanks to the unwavering commitment by all of you and our alignment with the global agenda.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we have made sure to not only celebrate ourselves, but also to use this opportunity to project to our future, a future in which an increased contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is required if we are to achieve prosperity for all, leaving no one behind.

I have listened very, very carefully to the statements you have made over the last few days and have taken note of the decisions you have adopted just now, and the valuable suggestions, recommendations and also importantly guidance I received from you. This guidance will be of vital importance for UNIDO in the coming months.

I would like to thank the IDB chair and friends for supporting Secretariat efforts in reaching out to Member States. I also highly appreciate the input and statements made by our Member States in our discussion during the IDB luncheon earlier this week. I took note of these recommendations and remarks and we will translate them into action.

Finally, I am pleased to see your eagerness to be fully engaged in our strategic initiatives, including our positioning in the 2030 Development Agenda, the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA3) and the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS) next year. Together with its Member States, UNIDO will achieve the ambitious goals that the global agenda for Sustainable Development is calling on us to meet.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I understand very well the road ahead of us will not be smooth, and the challenges lying ahead will not be small, but with the strong support, the trust, the expectations from our partners, from our staff, from our Member States, from all of you, we have the confidence, courage and wisdom to be in the uncharted waters to lead this organization in contributing to the global agenda.

In conclusion, colleagues, friends, I would like to thank you again for your trust and partnership, and wish you all the best for the holiday season and New Year. I think some of you may miss out on Thanksgiving, but the big holidays are still ahead of us. I hope that you can relax and recharge, and that we can all emerge refreshed, ready to take on the challenges ahead. Get ready for another challenging but fruitful year in 2017.

Thank you very much.