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UNIDO Country Programme 2019-2023

Launching event

Chisinau, 14 May 2019

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues,

It is my great honor to share this opening session with Ms. Julia Costin, General State Secretary, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of Moldova and Ms. Dima Al-Khatib, acting UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative. Please accept my sincere appreciation for your warm and inspiring opening remarks! Special thanks to the host – the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova for excellent cooperation and support in organizing this event.

I am very pleased to welcome our numerous distinguished participants from national and international institutions, who joined our Country Programme launching event this morning. We are proud that today, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is represented by a solid delegation from various technical departments that gives us an opportunity and right momentum to engage in very pragmatic substantive discussions with our multifaceted partners in Moldova.

UNIDO has a solid track record of technical cooperation projects recently implemented in Moldova, in particular in the area of resource efficient and cleaner production, transfer of new technological solutions, such as solar thermal panels and improvement of energy systems of industrial enterprises through introduction of energy management system standards. New projects are under way and are a part of the Country Programme we are launching today together with you.

UNIDO was invited by the Government of the Republic of Moldova to develop a comprehensive operational framework in the form of a Country Programme with clearly defined thematic priorities in the area of inclusive and sustainable industrial development spanning over the period of five years from 2019



to 2023. This shows a great level of trust from the side of the Moldovan counterparts, which we highly appreciate. It is a great encouragement to be able to expand our work in the country, building on the existing results, established networks and partnerships.

We are off now to start the development and implementation of priority projects that contribute to achieving critical objectives set up in the country's development plans and policies, moving towards the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as advancing the economic integration process with the European Union.

For more than 25 years, Moldovan industry has been undergoing a challenging transition process owing to the need to re-engineer its production capacities and find new markets. The de-industrialisation process was accompanied by a heavy brain drain, a reduced technical capacity and decrease in engineering education, as well as a declining industrial culture. The UNIDO Country Programme will support the efforts of the Government of Moldova to reverse those trends, achieve higher competitiveness in priority industrial sectors, diversify and upgrade industrial base, as well as add value to products and services important for trade, creating opportunities for women and youth, especially in rural areas. Separate projects foreseen within the Programme intend to support knowledge-intensive, innovative and green industries with higher value addition, to foster entrepreneurship and job creation, as well as to enhance skills and create conditions for the upscaling of competitive and environmentally sound practices. A particular focus will be placed on micro, small and medium sized enterprises, which form an important backbone of Moldova's private sector landscape.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

In order to enable the Country Programme to contribute to the envisaged transformative change, and bring about an impact of scale for the benefit of Moldova and its people, we are looking forward to mobilizing funds and leveraging dynamic partnerships with various stakeholders. I hope that today's meeting will contribute to building our effective dialogue and will lay a foundation for a strong and mutually beneficial collaboration in the future. Thank you.