

Statement by
Excellency Mr. Md. Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, MP
Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Industries of the People's Republic
of Bangladesh at the 18th Session of the General Conference of
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Mr. President,
[H.E. Eng. Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Industry, UAE]
Director General Li Yong,
Excellencies,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good morning/ afternoon.

At the outset, let me congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election as President of this session as well as the newly elected Bureau members. I assure the Bureau of my delegation's full support.

I also express our deep appreciation for the outgoing Bureau under the leadership of Her Excellency Ambassador Alena Kupchyna of Belarus, as well as the entire bureau for their professionalism, commitment and the outstanding achievements during their tenure.

I would like to sincerely thank the government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting this session in this beautiful city of Abu Dhabi and for the warm hospitality extended to the delegations including my delegation.

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the accession of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as the newest member of UNIDO. Bangladesh delegation further welcomes the participation of Antigua and Barbuda, the Federated States of Micronesia and the State of Palestine for the first time as member at the General Conference. The gradual increasing number of member states as party to UNIDO, is an acknowledgement of the role and contribution of UNIDO in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Mr. President,

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Group of 77 and China. I wish to make the following statement in my national capacity.

Bangladesh is now considered as a model of development by many countries. After our recent elevation to a lower-middle-income country under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, we are now on track to become a higher **middle income country** by 2021 and to complete LDC graduation by 2024. Realization of our 'Vision-2041' to become a developed country is also on course. Notwithstanding the impressive development of our country, the major challenge before us is to sustain the economic growth we achieved so far and to attain all the SDGs by 2030.

Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me to say few words about the industrialization programme of Bangladesh. The industrial development in our country has been taking place by way of promoting private entrepreneurs, facilitating investments from home and abroad by policy support like five-year plans, industrial policy, export and import policy, and fiscal policy, as well as the establishment of industrial estates, Export Processing Zones (EPZs), Economic Zones, Hi-Tech IT Parks and Industrial Parks. Some of our industrialization efforts like industrial estates by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation were put in place as back as early 1960s. We framed our Export Processing Zone Act in 1980. Private Export Processing Zones have been there since late 1990s and Korean Export Processing Zone as the first such zone in Bangladesh has been in operation for around two decades now.

Currently, there are 08 fully operational '**Export Processing Zones**' (EPZs) in Bangladesh, exclusively for 100% export-oriented industries, the while the establishment of 100 '**Economic Zones**' (EZs) across the country is underway to ensure inclusive industrialization in our country. The EPZs have now a total of 476 units of operational export oriented industries from home and abroad including industries from 36 foreign countries, employing over half a million workforce there and contributing to the 20% of our total annual national export, equivalent to US\$ 7.20 billion. A number of Hi-tech Parks for IT industries being developed with few in operations. Bangladesh highly welcomes investment as well as technology transfer through industrial undertakings in these parks.

It's therefore evident that our policies are supportive to the **Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID)**, as articulated in the **Lima Declaration**, that seeks to benefiting people from industrial growth and shared prosperity among women and men in all four corners of the country. Sustainable industrial development with environmental integrity is central of our Industrial Policy while ensuring support for the broader economic and social growth within an environmentally sustainable framework.

Mr. President,

UNIDO's works with Bangladesh over few decades focused on improving industrial productivity and competitiveness of the private sector, and enhancing export capability through technical cooperation programmes. In the current 3-year **Country Programme**, it has identified the areas like the improvement of infrastructure for provision of business services; development and innovation of high impact sectors and value chains as well as the development and diversification of environmental goods and services sectors. Our government deeply appreciates significant contribution of the UNIDO in our development endeavor, particularly in our industrialization programmes and export products development.

I sincerely hope that our existing collaboration will grow from strength to strength in the days ahead, while looking forward to UNIDO's enhanced cooperation targeting Industry 4.0, especially in capacity building and technology transfer by way of technical assistance which are much required for us.

Mr President,

Bangladesh strongly believes that a harmonious and sustainable development as well as achieving SDGs by LDCs is only possible through inclusive industrialization. In this context, we wish to refer to our discussion at the LDC Ministerial Conference. Bangladesh is concerned about LDC's struggle to achieve the objectives of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPOA). We stress on effective implementation of IPOA, the 2030 Agenda and other development-related outcomes to ensure LDC interests while being confident that, at the same time, UNIDO will also support the implementation of the directives of the 8th LDC Ministerial and the previous ministerial meetings. I would also strongly urge the UNIDO for continued support for the industrial development of the LDCs, including countries-in-transition like Bangladesh, and thereby support them to achieve SDGs in General and SDG 9 in particular.

Mr. President,

I am pleased to inform that Bangladesh has a successful industrialization programme that has contributed to a huge leap of our manufacturing sector, currently accounts for 24.20 % of the GDP. We would therefore be pleased to share our best practices with other developing countries including LDCs in order for their achieving ISID. In this context, Bangladesh would like to be considered for a PCP country while expressing its support for the expansion of PCP to other member states.

Distinguished Delegates,

We believe that as a member state, Bangladesh has more to contribute to the works of the UNIDO. In this regard, I would like to humbly request you, **Distinguished Delegates**, to support Bangladesh's candidate for the election to the UNIDO's External Auditor to uphold our shared goals and aspirations.

Before I conclude, **Mr. President**, I would like to reaffirm Bangladesh's commitment to the works of the UNIDO and reiterate its full support for UNIDO's mandate towards Member States' achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development, including that in my country- particularly regarding Industry 4.0.

Thank you.