

**Speech note**

**UNIDO 18<sup>th</sup> General Conference (Abu Dhabi)**

**November 03 – 07, 2019**

**Directorate General of Industry,**

**Ministry of Commerce and Industry,**

**Sultanate of Oman**

**Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to greet you today during the UNIDO 18<sup>th</sup> General Conference. The UNIDO 18<sup>th</sup> General conference aspires to shape the future of manufacturing, with its global mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID). Only through active cooperation and partnership can we ensure the success of such an ambitious undertaking by making a critical contribution to global development - both now and in the future. We acknowledge the dedication of UNIDO, and especially of the Government of the United Arab Emirates, hosting this important conference. In particular, I would like to highlight the pivotal role of His Excellency Li Yong, Director General of UNIDO, for his stewardship of the UNIDO.

We firmly believe that manufacturing was, is, and will be the bedrock of a robust inclusive and sustainable economic system. The manufacturing is the most fruitful ground for entrepreneurship, technological advancement and increased productivity; as it creates economic growth, incomes, and social mobility.

## **Excellencies,**

We reaffirm the commitment of the Sultanate of Oman towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development, and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. We aim to make manufacturing an engine of growth. In Oman, manufacturing has come a long way from what it was 40 years ago to today's landscape – a new era of modern manufacturing aimed to embed advanced manufacturing technologies stem from the Fourth Industrial Revolution with great emphasis on the well-being of the people and the environmental sustainability in the region and global at large. The role of manufacturing, in leading us away from volatile oil and commodity prices, and into a modern, advanced and affluent society, cannot end here. We continue to advance our manufacturing sector into more advanced stages of industrialization. We believe manufacturing will allow us to diversify our economy, and we are developing smart rules and incentives that allow us to accelerate our progress towards goals set for Oman's Manufacturing Strategy 2040.

## **Honorable Members,**

For many countries, however, these economic advancements have come at a high price. Environmental degradation and rising social inequality have often accompanied rapid industrial growth. We welcome all countries to join us to collectively find a way to achieve strong economic growth, which at the same time makes its benefits accessible to all while safeguarding the environment for future generations.

In order to tackle this enormous task, all major stakeholders must be involved in the development process. It is therefore with great pleasure to see so many representatives from government, industry and private sectors here today. Moreover, the traditional concept of manufacturing as representing a factory with many workers and tools is fading. Today, manufacturing has overstepped the boundaries of factories, generating a considerable share of its value-added from all manufacturing-related services. In addition, manufacturing firms are transforming into high-tech labs. Technology is changing rapidly, and technology transfer has, therefore, become more urgent than ever.

## **Excellencies,**

The extent of the industry's impact on a country's overall economic development and environmental sustainability is ultimately defined by the pattern of industrialization a country chooses to follow. A long-term strategy can establish a framework of stable and enabling economic conditions. It can also create incentives to invest in the necessary education, infrastructure, technological innovation, and entrepreneurial skills. We are honored that UNIDO has been one of our strategic partners in the development of Oman's Manufacturing Strategy 2040. Again, we would like to acknowledge the contribution of UNIDO to Oman's manufacturing development, the two recent cooperations with UNIDO, from 2016 to 2019, on manufacturing strategy and industrial statistics have come to great success.

We call upon UNIDO to outreach and provide technical assistance to government institutions responsible for manufacturing development in the Sultanate, especially in the areas of industrial cluster development and energy efficiency.

**Distinguished Members of the Audience,**

We welcome UNIDO to continue supporting its member states to advance inclusive and sustainable industrial development, in particular, how can member states capitalize on the emerging market opportunities stem from the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

We call upon UNIDO to outreach its member states through recommending practical steps to unlock the transformative potential of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and to create “win-win” scenarios, benefitting the economy, environment, and society at large.

Through broad and inclusive partnerships, we can together harness the benefits of technological innovation and make a lasting contribution to achieving United Nations Agenda 2030. We encourage UNIDO to continue convening global policymakers and influential parties to shape the trajectory of the Fourth Industrial Revolution; to align its mission to Agenda 2030 and to keep the light shining on the less industrialized regions so that no one is left behind.

**Thank you for your attention.**

**-End of the speech note-**