

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**  
**18th SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO**  
**by H.E. AMBASSADOR CAN DİZDAR**  
**AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**  
**TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

May I begin, Mr. President, by congratulating you for your assumption of the Presidency of the General Conference and assuring you of my delegation's full support.

I wish to thank the Secretariat and the Chair of the 47th Industrial Development Board, Permanent Representative of Spain, Ambassador Senén Florensa, who chaired the Board successfully during the preparation period of the General Conference.

Let me also take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and Turkey's support to Mr. Li Yong, for the achievements in UNIDO during his term as Director General. Turkey has full confidence that UNIDO will continue to make progress under his leadership in fulfilling its mandate of reducing poverty through inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Mr. President,

Turkey has aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. Therefore, I'll keep my remarks brief.

Industrial development holds the key for inclusive economic growth, sustainable energy, prevention of environmental degradation and productive and equal employment which paves the way to the ultimate objective of the Organization; eradicating poverty.

In this respect, UNIDO's relevance and key role in United Nations Development System (UNDS) has also been accentuated and we believe that the reform of the UNDS will also contribute to the success of UNIDO.

Continuous financial and economic crises as well as adverse political developments often lead to regression. They are hindering developmental gains and exacerbating worldwide poverty and hunger.

In that sense, we would like to underline the negative effects of the unilateral economic measures applied on developing countries and we call on all members to unite against that kind of policies, which have worldwide implications.

Our world has already enough challenges: The main environmental issues such as depletion of natural resources, loss of biodiversity, scarcity of water resources and adverse impacts of climate change, make it all the more urgent for the international community to take major steps necessary to achieve sustainable development in a manner which does not compromise the well-being of people and the planet.

UNIDO, as one of the fundamental international organisations promoting economic development, has a heavy burden and important task to fulfill under the circumstances.

In this vein, we believe that, its financial resources largely relying on Member States' contributions, UNIDO should be adequately resourced for its efficiency. Timely and full payment of assessed contributions is highly important to support UNIDO's activities. In the meantime, we also encourage the Secretariat to work on further savings through increased efficiencies.

We believe that the theme of the General Conference; "Innovate – Connect – Transform Our Future" is timely and very relevant.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the most important task ahead of the international community.

If we cannot close the development gap among countries, if we cannot achieve sustainable development in its social, economic and environmental aspects for all, then we will not be able to build societies capable of coping with the ever evolving challenges of today and future.

Therefore, we would like to express our support to the Program for Country Partnership (PCP) initiated by UNIDO, which is targeting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Member States.

We are also entering a new era of advanced digital technologies, robotics and artificial intelligence.

With the advent of technologies in all fields of industrial development, we expect that it will be much easier for all the stakeholders to connect and share. Innovations towards a better future can only be facilitated with enhanced cooperation among governments, international organizations and private sector.

The opportunities and challenges pertaining to this area should also be addressed with a special emphasis on the 2030 Agenda.

In the attainment of SDGs, this year, Turkey has presented the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), following its first VNR in 2016.

Through VNRs, Turkey is able to detect the obstacles towards attaining particular SDG Goals in our country, as well as the progress made in reaching them. We believe that these reviews could be helpful in terms of sharing the experience of Turkey with other countries. We also call upon all other member states to voluntarily conduct their national reviews and provide more reference input to the SDG efforts.

Supporting the development efforts of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) is one of the pillars of our foreign policy. In this context, Turkey is hosting the UN Technology Bank, a new UN entity established to strengthen the science, technology and innovation (STI) capacity of the LDCs and facilitate their transfer of technology.

Finally, I would like to stress that the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with UNDP, initiated recently the “SDG Impact Accelerator (SDGIA) Project”.

The main aim of the project is to accelerate the impact of SDGs through the facilitation of “systems entrepreneurs” for market-creating innovations. We believe that the project will provide remedy to the problems of displaced people through cooperation in an action and result oriented way.

While Turkey is paving the way for inclusive and sustainable industrial development, we keep the environmental issues always in mind.

Turkey has recently initiated a nationwide campaign called Zero Waste Project under the auspices of the First Lady of the Republic of Turkey, Mrs. Emine Erdoğan, for effective waste management that would contribute to circular economy in Turkey.

Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey organized the Second “International Zero Waste Summit” on 1 November 2019, in Istanbul, with the participation of all stakeholders and international community.

To conclude, Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate Turkey’s commitment to UNIDO as the leading UN agency in promoting industrial development in a safe and productive way as well as our will to continue supporting its activities globally.

After all, these are our common goals and we all need to put our minds into it.

Thank you.