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On behalf of the Government and People of Ghana, I wish to express the appreciation of my delegation to the Government and People of the United Arab Emirates for the excellent facilities placed at our disposal at this Conference.

I would also like to congratulate the Director-General of UNIDO and his Secretariat, for the vision and purposefulness, in ensuring that UNIDO remains relevant in the quest to resolving the development challenges of this dynamic era.

The theme for this General Conference, that is, "Industry 2030 – Innovate. Connect. Transform our Future," is indeed a call to action on member states to take urgent and pragmatic steps to advance the frontiers of industrialization on a global scale, with a view to taking the special needs of all members into consideration, as we seek to shape a global agenda on industry for the next few years.

As the world prepares to enter into the Fourth Industrial Revolution, buoyed by emerging technologies and unprecedented innovation, we have no option but to seek new paths towards economic growth, as well as to consolidate the gains of the past few years.

This quest to chart a new path, can be realized even more speedily when we reinforce the ideals of multilateral cooperation through institutions such as UNIDO.

In this regard, Ghana would like to reaffirm its commitment to the ideals of this August institution and to express our support for its work.

The recent conclusion of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which seeks to leverage Africa's population of 1.2 billion

with a combined GDP of 3 trillion United States Dollars across the 54 Member States presents a once in a life time opportunity for Africa to increase its engagement with the world through global value chains.

Indeed, if there was a time in the history of Africa that the importance of industrialization as a catalyst for growth and job creation has been manifested, then that time is now. In Ghana's case, our development narrative in the last few years has been dominated by our quest to industrialize with a view to providing decent jobs for the teeming youth, women and other vulnerable groups. In this regard, the President of the Republic has articulated a new vision of a "Ghana beyond Aid." This vision seeks to take full advantage of our natural resources and other capabilities to catapult our national development agenda.

To that extent, Ghana has embarked on a very ambitious and comprehensive ten-point agenda for the industrial transformation. This includes among other things a "One District One Factory" initiative through which Government is seeking to partner with the private sector to build at least one medium to large scale factory in each district of the political administrative regions of Ghana with a view to bringing industrialization to the doorstep of Ghanaians. Secondly, the One Region One Park initiative seeks to establish in partnership with the private sector, dedicated industrial parks and special economic zones in each of the political administrative regions. Thirdly, the establishment of strategic anchor industries as new growth poles to diversify the Ghanaian economy beyond cocoa and gold, is also being pursued with a sense of urgency.

The significant opportunities to be created from these catalytic interventions would certainly guarantee Ghana a place at the global market place in the next few years.

Drawing on the time-tested capacity of UNIDO to facilitate the implementation of Ghana's national industrial priorities, Ghana has this year signed a Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) with

UNIDO. It is believed that this programme would reinforce our relationship with UNIDO by ensuring a much more coordinated approach towards Ghana's industrial transformation agenda whilst seeking to realize optimum gains in SDG 9.

Let me conclude by stating that the delegation of Ghana is looking forward to pragmatic policy outcomes from this Conference that will emphasize the importance of integrating all economies in global value chains on the basis of sound industrial capacity.

Ghana remains committed to the ideals of UNIDO and to the success of this General Conference.

