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Decisions and resolutions adopted by the General Conference at its eighteenth session

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** All decisions were adopted by consensus. Reservations were made by Member States regarding decision GC.18/Dec.6 and GC.18/Dec.16. Statements were made by Member States regarding decisions GC.18/Dec.8 and GC.18/Dec.9. All statements/positions expressed on decisions and resolutions are available on the website and/or in the digital recordings on the Extranet.

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*** All resolutions were adopted by consensus. Statements were made by Member States regarding resolutions GC.18/Res.1, GC.18/Res.2, GC.18/Res.3 and GC.18/Res.7. All statements/positions expressed on decisions and resolutions are available on the website and/or in the digital recordings on the Extranet.

Introductory note

1. The decisions and resolutions adopted by the General Conference at its eighteenth regular session (2019) are reproduced in the present document.
2. The table of contents, for ease of reference, lists a serial number by which each decision or resolution may be cited, the title of each decision and resolution, the pertinent background document(s) and the relevant agenda item. Decisions and resolutions are, as far as possible, set out in the order of the agenda.

Agenda of the eighteenth regular session

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. Credentials of representatives to the Conference.
6. Elections to organs:
 - (a) Industrial Development Board;
 - (b) Programme and Budget Committee.
7. Annual reports of the Director General on the activities of the Organization for 2017 and 2018.
8. Reports of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its forty-sixth and forty-seventh regular sessions.
9. Forum on industrial development issues.
10. Financial matters:
 - (a) Scale of assessments of Member States;
 - (b) Financial situation of UNIDO;
 - (c) Working Capital Fund;
 - (d) Appointment of an External Auditor.
11. Programme and budgets, 2020–2021.
12. Midterm review of the medium-term programme framework, 2018–2021.
13. UNIDO and the United Nations development system reform, including the new Resident Coordinator System and the field network.
14. UNIDO, gender equality and the empowerment of women.
15. UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
16. Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa.
17. UNIDO activities related to energy and the environment.
18. UNIDO activities related to agribusiness, trade capacity-building and job creation.
19. UNIDO activities related to the Vienna Ministerial Declaration for the least developed countries.
20. UNIDO activities related to cooperation with middle-income countries, taking into account the San José Declaration.
21. Personnel matters, including the UNIDO Staff Pension Committee.
22. Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations.
23. Date and place of the nineteenth session.
24. Closure of the session.

DECISIONS

GC.18/Dec.1 ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

The General Conference elected by acclamation H.E. Mr. Suhail Al Mazrouei (United Arab Emirates) President of the Conference at its eighteenth session.

*1st plenary meeting
3 November 2019*

GC.18/Dec.2 ELECTION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

The General Conference elected the following Vice-Presidents of the Conference at its eighteenth session: H.E. Ms. Faouzia Mebarki (Algeria), H.E. Ms. Nada Kruger (Namibia), H.E. Mr. Kazem Gharib Adadi (Islamic Republic of Iran), H.E. Ms. Pirkko Mirjami Hamalainen (Finland), H.E. Mr. Gerhard Küntzle (Germany), H.E. Ms. Alicia Buenrostro Massieu (Mexico), Ms. Andrea Éva Nemes (Hungary), and Ms. Vera V. Khutorskaya (Russian Federation).

*1st plenary meeting
3 November 2019*

GC.18/Dec.3 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The General Conference:

(a) Adopted the agenda of its eighteenth session as contained in document GC.18/1.

*2nd plenary meeting
3 November 2019*

GC.18/Dec.4 ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The General Conference:

(a) Decided to cover agenda items 7 to 23 in the plenary in the form of a general debate;

(b) Also decided to establish, in accordance with rule 44 of its rules of procedure, one Main Committee, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Ms. Vivian Okeke (Nigeria), on which each Member participating in the Conference may be represented;

(c) Further decided to refer agenda items 7 to 23 to the Main Committee for a more focused debate aimed at the preparation of consensus draft decisions and resolutions for submission to the plenary;

(d) Requested the Chair of the Main Committee to submit a written report on its work to the Conference at the closing session of the plenary, in accordance with decision GC.3/Dec.11.

*3rd plenary meeting
4 November 2019*

GC.18/Dec.5 APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The General Conference appointed the following Members to serve on the Credentials Committee: Barbados, Botswana, China, Ireland, Mauritius, Nepal, Russian Federation, Spain, and Uruguay.

*3rd plenary meeting
4 November 2019*

GC.18/Dec.6 CREDENTIALS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE¹

The General Conference:

- (a) Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendations contained therein;
- (b) Approved the report of the Credentials Committee.

*7th plenary meeting
6 November 2019*

GC.18/Dec.7 APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The General Conference decided to appoint the Auditor General of the Russian Federation as the External Auditor for UNIDO for a period of two years, beginning on 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022, under the terms of reference specified in the Financial Regulations of UNIDO.

*7th plenary meeting
6 November 2019*

GC.18/Dec.8 ELECTION OF THE TWENTY-SIX MEMBERS TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The General Conference, in pursuance of Article 9.1 of the Constitution, elected the following twenty-six members to the Industrial Development Board to hold office until the close of the twentieth regular session of the Conference in 2023:

(a) Fifteen members from States in List A and C of Annex I of the Constitution: Brazil, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Mali, Mexico, Namibia, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay. One of the List C seats remained vacant.

Eight members from States in List B of Annex I to the Constitution²: Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden.

Three members from States in List D of Annex I to the Constitution: Belarus, Poland and Slovenia.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

As a result, the Industrial Development Board is composed of the following fifty-three States: Algeria**, Argentina**, Austria**, Bangladesh**, Belarus**, Brazil**, Burkina Faso**, China**, Costa Rica**, Côte d'Ivoire**, Cuba**, Cyprus**, Egypt**, Ethiopia**, Finland**, Germany**, Hungary**, India**, Indonesia**, Iran (Islamic Republic of)**, Ireland**, Italy**, Japan**, Kenya**, Kuwait**, Luxembourg**, Mali**, Malta**, Mexico**, Morocco**, Namibia**, Netherlands**, Norway**, Pakistan**, Peru**, Philippines**, Poland**, Republic of Korea**, Russian Federation**, Saudi Arabia**, Senegal**, Slovenia**, Spain**, Sudan**, Sweden**, Switzerland**, Tunisia**, Turkey**, United Arab Emirates**, Uruguay**, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**, and Zambia**. One of the List C seats remained vacant**

* **Twenty-seven States whose term of office expires at the end of the nineteenth regular session of the General Conference in 2021 (decision GC.17/Dec.11 of 30 November 2017).**

¹ The delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Peru, the State of Palestine, and the Syrian Arab Republic clarified their positions on this matter.

² The delegations of Cyprus and Turkey clarified their positions on this matter.

**** Twenty-six States whose term of office expires at the end of the twentieth regular session of the General Conference in 2023 (decision GC.18/Dec.8 of 7 November 2019).**

GC.18/Dec.9 ELECTION OF THE TWENTY-SEVEN MEMBERS TO THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

The General Conference, in pursuance of Article 10.1 of the Constitution, elected the following twenty-seven members to the Programme and Budget Committee to hold office until the close of the nineteenth regular session of the Conference in 2021:

(a) Fifteen members from States in List A and C of Annex I to the Constitution³: Algeria, Brazil, China, Cuba, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

(b) Nine members from States in List B of Annex I to the Constitution: Austria, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Malta, Spain, Switzerland, and Turkey.

(c) Three members from States in List D of Annex I to the Constitution:⁴ Hungary, Poland, and Russian Federation.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

GC.18/Dec.10 SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS OF MEMBER STATES

The General Conference:

(a) Took note of document PBC.35/6 and [PBC.35/6/Rev.1](#);

(b) Decided to establish a scale of assessments for the fiscal period 2020–2021 based on United Nations General Assembly resolution [73/271](#), adjusted to the membership of UNIDO on the understanding that new members shall be assessed for the year in which they become members on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessments, as applicable to UNIDO;

(c) Urged Member States to pay their assessed contributions for the 2020–2021 biennium in accordance with financial regulation 5.5 (b), which states that contributions and advances shall be due and payable in full within thirty days of the receipt of the communication of the Director General, or as of the first day of the calendar year to which it relates, whichever is later;

(d) Called on Member States and former Member States that are in arrears to fulfil their constitutional obligations by paying their outstanding assessed contributions in full and without conditions as soon as possible, or to take advantage of payment plans to settle their arrears, in accordance with previous decisions by the policymaking organs of UNIDO.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

GC.18/Dec.11 FINANCIAL SITUATION OF UNIDO

The General Conference:

(a) Took note of the information provided in document [GC.18/5](#);

(b) Urged those Member States and former Member States that have not yet paid their assessed contributions, including advances to the Working Capital Fund and prior years' arrears, to do so without delay;

³ The delegation of Colombia, on behalf of a group of Member States from List C, clarified its position on this matter.

⁴ The delegation of Ukraine clarified its position on this matter.

(c) Requested the Director General to pursue his efforts and contacts with Member States and former Member States to effect the collection of arrears.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

GC.18/Dec.12 WORKING CAPITAL FUND

The General Conference:

(a) Took note of Board decision IDB.47/Dec.4;

(b) Decided that the level of the Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2020–2021 should remain at €7,423,030 and that the authorized purposes of the Fund for the biennium 2020–2021 should remain the same as for the biennium 2018–2019, i.e. as stipulated in decision GC.2/Dec.27, paragraph (b);

(c) Urged Member States to pay their outstanding assessed contributions as soon as possible to minimize the need to withdraw sums from the Working Capital Fund to meet shortfalls in the payment of assessed contributions;

(d) Invited the Informal Working Group to discuss the adequacy of the level of the Working Capital Fund and to develop, in close consultation with the Secretariat, proposals for consideration at the next Programme and Budget Committee.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

GC.18/Dec.13 ACTIVATING THE USE OF THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE PROBLEM OF UNUTILIZED BALANCES OF APPROPRIATIONS

The General Conference:

(a) Took note of Board decision IDB.47/Dec.5;

(b) Recalled decisions GC.1/Dec.33 and GC.2/Dec.27 regarding the establishment, purpose, and conditions of the Working Capital Fund and noted that:

(i) The sources of money for the Working Capital Fund shall be advances from Member States made in accordance with the scale of assessment as adopted by the General Conference;

(ii) The current level of the Working Capital Fund is approved at €7,423,030 by GC.17/Dec.16;

(iii) The General Conference authorized the Director General to advance from the Working Capital Fund such amounts as might be necessary to finance budgetary appropriations pending the receipt of contributions; and

(iv) Such advances from the Working Capital Fund should be reimbursed as soon as receipts from contributions are available for that purpose;

(c) Confirmed the purpose and conditions of use of the Working Capital Fund and requested the Director General to avail of this provision prudently to decrease, and minimize unutilized balances of appropriations arising from the late payment of assessed contributions;

(d) Further requested the Secretariat to make use of the Working Capital Fund within the provisions of the existing Financial Regulations;

(e) Reaffirmed that the regular review of the Working Capital Fund level on a biennial basis by the Programme and Budget Committee, the Industrial Development Board and the General Conference shall be maintained to determine the adequacy of the Working Capital Fund;

(f) Requested the Director General to report annually to the Industrial Development Board through the Programme and Budget Committee on the effect of the aforementioned measures on the financial situation of the Organization;

(g) Urged Member States to pay their outstanding assessed contributions as soon as possible to minimize the need to withdraw sums from the Working Capital Fund to meet shortfalls in the payment of assessed contributions;

(h) Invited the Informal Working Group to discuss the adequacy of the level of the Working Capital Fund and to develop, in close consultation with the Secretariat, proposals for consideration at the next Programme and Budget Committee.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

GC.18/Dec.14 PROGRAMME AND BUDGETS, 2020–2021

The General Conference:

(a) Took note of the proposals of the Director General on the programme and budgets for the biennium 2020–2021, as contained in document [IDB.47/5-PBC.35/5](#) and amended by document [IDB.47/5-PBC.35/5](#) Addendum 1 and [IDB.47/5](#) Addendum 2;

(b) Took note that the proposed programme and budgets are created in order to fulfil the mandate of the Organization within the broader development context of the ongoing reform of the United Nations development system and incorporated within the proposal the increased cost of UNIDO's contribution to the United Nations Resident Coordinator system, in line with United Nations General Assembly resolution [72/279](#);

(c) Approved estimates of regular budget gross expenditures of €144,091,811⁵ to be financed from assessed contributions in the amount of €138,924,543, other income of €2,551,500 and efficiency gains of €942,223 and a balance of €1,673,545 to be financed from all available resources, including:

- (i) Voluntary contributions;
- (ii) Increased application of the full cost recovery principle;
- (iii) Voluntary renouncements of unspent balances of appropriations;
- (iv) Further savings, prioritizations and efficiencies if appropriate;
- (v) And, as a last resort, to draw on the funds allocated to strengthening the United Nations development system, in accordance with Annex II of the Constitution;

with the assurance that the above would not hamper the core functions of the Organization including technical cooperation activities, as well as staffing and the field network;

(d) Also approved estimates of gross expenditures totalling €37,867,400 for the purpose of the operational budget for the biennium 2020–2021 to be financed from the reimbursement of support costs pertaining to technical cooperation and other services in the amount of €37,571,300 and other income amounting to €296,100 as may be provided for in the financial regulations;

(e) Further approved €197,000 accumulated in the Special Account of Voluntary Contributions for Core Activities for the purpose of career development training during the biennium 2020–2021;

⁵ This amount is to be reviewed following the review of the cost-sharing formula for the calculation of the contribution to the Resident Coordinator System within the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

- (f) Requested the Director General to:
- (i) Continue financing the United Nations Resident Coordinator system, in line with paragraph (c) above, with the understanding that:
- a. In 2020 and 2021, an amount of up to \$2,637,121 (€2,228,367) will be paid annually;
 - b. The Director General proactively contributes to the process and the review of the cost-sharing formula for the calculation of contributions to the Resident Coordinator System, within the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, in the best interest of the Organization, bearing in mind *inter alia* the implications of the Organization's current cost-sharing contribution on its regular budget, and regularly report to Member States, including to the Programme and Budget Committee and the Industrial Development Board;
 - (ii) Report to each session of the Industrial Development Board on the services provided by the United Nations Resident Coordinator system, leading to cost-savings, synergies and efficiencies and to ensure accountability and transparency for the funds provided by UNIDO to the United Nations Resident Coordinator system;
 - (iii) Establish the following draft budget 2022–2023 according to results-based budgeting principles;
 - (iv) Ensure a balanced allocation of resources among Major Programmes during the execution of the programme and budgets 2020–2021 with a special emphasis on Least Developed Countries;
 - (v) Submit detailed reports on the state of financing and implementation of the programme and budget 2020–2021 to the Programme and Budget Committee, the Industrial Development Board, and the General Conference of UNIDO;
- (g) Noted that the “Special Resources for Africa” together with voluntary contributions will be used to foster industrialization in Africa and implement UNIDO's leading role assigned in United Nations General Assembly resolution [70/93](#) on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

GC.18/Dec.15 UNUTILIZED BALANCES OF APPROPRIATIONS

The General Conference:

- (a) Took note of the distribution of document GC.18/3/Add.1 and GC.18/CRP.3 on the status of unutilized balances;
- (b) Underlined the necessity of strictly adhering to the provisions of the UNIDO Financial Regulations;
- (c) Recalled that, according to the provisions of the Financial Regulations of UNIDO, the unutilized balances of appropriations should be returned to the Member States;
- (d) Recalled the Industrial Development Board decision entitled “Programme and budgets, 2020–2021” (IDB.47/Dec.13) and that Member States had approved that regular budget gross expenditures would be financed from assessed contributions, other income, efficiency gains and a balance of €1,673,545 from all available resources including voluntary renouncements of unspent balances of appropriations, so that from the amount of unutilized balances of appropriations due to Member States in 2020, remaining on 31 December 2019 and voluntarily renounced to the Organization, up to €1,673,545 may be utilized to support regular budget gross

expenditures, if so allocated for that purpose by the Member State voluntarily renouncing its share of unutilized balances;

(e) Encouraged Member States to consider voluntarily renouncing their shares of the unutilized balances of appropriations in order to strengthen the programmes of UNIDO;

(f) Requested the Director General to report to the Board at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, through the Programme and Budget Committee, on the implementation of the present decision.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

GC.18/Dec.16 NOMINATIONS TO THE STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE⁶

The General Conference:

(a) Took note of decision IDB.47/Dec.9;

(b) Decided to elect the following two members and one alternate member of the UNIDO Staff Pension Committee for the biennium 2020–2021:

Members: Ms. Jane Bosibori Makori (Kenya)
Ms. Silvia Berladski Baruch (Israel)

Alternates: Ms. Andrea Éva Nemes (Hungary)

(c) Authorized the Industrial Development Board to proceed with the election for any of the above-mentioned posts that might become vacant before the General Conference holds its nineteenth session.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

GC.18/Dec.17 DATE AND PLACE OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION

The General Conference decided that its nineteenth session shall be held from 29 November to 3 December 2021, in Vienna, Austria.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

RESOLUTIONS

GC.18/Res.1 ABU DHABI DECLARATION⁷

1. We, the Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Representatives, gathered at the eighteenth session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) held in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, as well as combating climate change and environmental degradation and its impacts, as referred to in the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), convened under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019, are among the greatest global challenges of our times.

2. We reaffirm our commitment to General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals

⁶ The delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the State of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic clarified their positions on this matter.

⁷ The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran clarified its position on this matter.

(SDGs) and targets were adopted, as well as our commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner.

3. We acknowledge the Secretary General’s global call for a decade of action to accelerate the implementation of measures to achieve the SDGs.

4. We acknowledge the importance of the regional and subregional dimensions to economic integration and inter-connectivity in sustainable development, taking into consideration different national realities, policies and priorities, as well as differences in capacities and levels of development, in particular for developing countries.

5. We recall the Addis Ababa Action Agenda whose concrete and effective implementation is key to achieve the SDGs.

6. We recall the “Lima Declaration: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development” in 2013 which laid the foundation for the development of Goal 9 to “build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation” and affirmed industrial development as a central driver for economic growth, job creation, income generation, and social inclusion.

7. We recall our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals while we reaffirm the importance of promoting human rights, good governance, the rule of law, transparency and accountability at all levels.

8. We reaffirm our commitment to the Paris Agreement.

9. Cognizant of United Nations General Assembly resolution [70/293](#) on the proclamation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016–2025) (IDDA III), which mandates UNIDO, as the lead Organization, to develop, operationalize and implement IDDA III, we urge the development partners and donors to support UNIDO activities, including building partnerships with the private and public sectors, donors, and United Nations and international specialized agencies to contribute towards implementation of industrial development projects in Africa which are in line with IDDA III objectives.

10. We recognize the need for effective international cooperation for inclusive and sustainable industrial development, including South-South and triangular cooperation, through the exchange of knowledge, best practices and capacity-building and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, to respond to the intensifying challenges of poverty and hunger eradication, as well as peace and security, climate change, pollution and environmental degradation, growing inequality and emerging trends such as the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

11. We acknowledge that the new technologies associated with the Fourth Industrial Revolution, with both transformative and disruptive potential, offer great opportunities to advance inclusive economic growth, reduce inequalities and contribute to sustainable development, resilience and human well-being, to address climate change and safeguard the environment in the framework of a circular economy as one of the means to achieve sustainable development, while also bringing with it challenges such as, inter alia, the widening of the technology gap among countries, job losses and threats to industrial safety and security.

12. We call for collective actions, multi-stakeholder partnerships and strengthened international cooperation to harness the full potential of these new technologies and mitigate associated risks, inter alia by scaling up UNIDO programmes for developing countries that support technological learning, technology transfer, and innovation, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises, women and the youth.

13. We reaffirm our commitment to UNIDO as a specialized agency of the United Nations with the mandate to promote international industrial cooperation and

inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) and the central coordinator of ISID in the United Nations system. We welcome UNIDO's crucial role in accelerating the achievement of Goal 9 along with all other industry-related goals of the 2030 Agenda. We invite all Member States of the United Nations to join UNIDO.

14. We recognize the importance of enhancing the efforts of UNIDO in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through all its mandated functions.

15. We welcome the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) as UNIDO's innovative and unique model for accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Member States. We recognize that the PCP supports participating States in achieving the SDGs and call on UNIDO to streamline actions towards the implementation of PCPs.

16. We reaffirm the important role of UNIDO within the context of the repositioning of the United Nations development system, as laid down in United Nations General Assembly resolutions [71/243](#) and [72/279](#), especially in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development, while taking advantage of the interlinkages between the economic, social and environmental dimensions to strengthen the common response to the 2030 Agenda.

17. We welcome the Organization's commitment to development results and encourage the enhancement of the role of UNIDO in the concerted efforts of the United Nations development system to seek greater coherence within the system and achieve system-wide global, regional and country-level results.

18. We encourage UNIDO to continue supporting Member States, cognizant of the diverse and specific needs and challenges they each face, by facilitating the adoption of best policies, practices, and technologies on favourable terms as mutually agreed, and unlocking appropriate resources in developing countries, as well as addressing the specific challenges facing middle-income countries.

19. We welcome that UNIDO supports the inclusion, participation, and contribution of all stakeholders in the economic development of Member States. We recognize the role of ISID in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women. We welcome UNIDO's role as a global platform for promotion of women economic empowerment and leadership, and call for continued efforts, strengthening of international cooperation and partnerships with public, private sector and academia in this field. We stress the importance of continued gender mainstreaming in sustainable development policies and interventions, as well as targeted actions to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. We take note of the progress made so far by the Organization in its programmatic work and in its efforts to apply these principles in its management practices, and take note of the Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2020–2023, and related resolutions of the General Conference of UNIDO.

20. We underline the importance of adequately addressing youth issues in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and encourage the involvement of young people in the development and implementation of sustainable development interventions. We also recognize the role industry plays in providing opportunities for creating decent employment for the youth.

21. In recognition of Goal 17 to “strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”, we emphasize the importance of strengthened partnerships for inclusive and sustainable industrial development among governments, the private sector, and civil society to successfully achieve the 2030 Agenda.

22. We further emphasize the importance of mobilizing the private sector to support the achievement of Goal 9, and the promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, as well as the importance of UNIDO and its Member States to facilitate such partnership. In the context of the rapid technological transition in the manufacturing sector worldwide, there is a need for advancing UNIDO's role in

organizing global high-level multi-stakeholder platforms, such as the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS), to spur thought leadership, cross-sectoral dialogues and partnerships, in full alignment with the SDGs.

23. We recognize that achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development requires the coordinated action of governments at all levels, international organizations, the private and public sectors, financial institutions, development banking, academia and civil society to facilitate productive capacities and job creation with the aim of eradicating poverty, while safeguarding the environment in the framework of a circular economy as one of the available means to achieve sustainable development. For this purpose, maximum use should be made of advancements in technological innovation; the development and adoption of improved and responsible business practices; the promotion of enhanced international industrial standards; impact investments; and effective policymaking aimed at bridging inequality gaps and enhancing conducive governance, while ensuring the sustainable use and management of natural resources, and equal opportunities for all.

24. We underline the crucial role of UNIDO in providing a platform to coordinate and catalyse initiatives led by, and in partnership with, private sector entities, while encouraging private-sector manufacturers to work together to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. We call upon UNIDO to spearhead these collaborative efforts by private-sector manufacturers through coordination, knowledge-sharing and targeted support. We encourage the establishment of a global alliance of private-sector manufacturers for ISID under the auspices of UNIDO.

25. We call upon all Member States to ensure adequate funding for UNIDO in order to meet the full level of the Organization's core and operational activities.

26. In line with our reaffirmed commitment to United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries. We encourage all States to work for inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

*5th plenary meeting
5 November 2019*

GC.18/Res.2 UNIDO, GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN^{8,9}

The General Conference,

Recalling previous General Conference resolutions on gender equality and the empowerment of women, in particular GC.16/Res.3 and GC.17/Res.3, in which the Director General was, inter alia, requested to scale up the implementation of gender mainstreaming, to strengthen the promotion of women's entrepreneurship and leadership, to strengthen efforts to achieve gender parity in the staffing of the Organization, and to present an updated Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Strategy to the General Conference at its eighteenth session,

Recalling further that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development addresses the need to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is crucial, and contributes to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets thereof, taking into account, for its implementation, different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities, while remaining consistent with

⁸ Submitted by Norway and co-sponsored by Armenia, Belarus, Dominican Republic, Finland, Japan, Mexico, Thailand, Uruguay, and the European Union and its Member States.

⁹ The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran clarified its position on this matter.

international law, including by developing cohesive sustainable development strategies to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Reaffirming all relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions pertaining to issues related to gender mainstreaming and women's economic empowerment, also reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its review conferences,

Recognizing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, as applicable to states parties thereto, which form part of an international legal framework for the elimination and prevention of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women,

Recalling also the Lima Declaration: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development (General Conference resolution GC.15/Res.1), which recognizes the role industry plays in providing opportunities for social inclusion, including gender equality, empowering all women and girls and creating decent employment for the youth,

Welcoming the Abu Dhabi Declaration, which welcomes the role of UNIDO as a global platform for the promotion of women's economic empowerment and leadership and stresses the importance of continued gender mainstreaming in sustainable development policies and interventions, as well as targeted actions to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Further reaffirming that UNIDO, under the medium-term programme framework (MTPF), 2018–2021 (IDB.45/8/Add.2/Corr.1), is expected to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. *Recognizing* that, as elaborated in the MTPF, 2018–2021, inclusive industrialization contributes to gender equality and the empowerment of women, thus supporting, inter alia, the achievement of Goal 5, particularly through the creation of decent jobs and income opportunities,

Acknowledging that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and women's full and equal participation and leadership are essential for achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development, enhancing inclusive and sustained economic growth and productivity, ending poverty and ensuring the well-being of all,

Recognizing the active role of women as agents of change in safeguarding the environment and expressing concern that women and girls, especially in developing countries, including small island developing States, are often disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change and other environmental issues,

Also taking note of the report [A/74/220](#) prepared by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution [72/147](#), which assesses the status of women in the United Nations system and offers conclusions and recommendations to address the gender balance in United Nations entities,

Expressing appreciation for the performance of UNIDO under the first phase of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP 1.0) as the entity demonstrating the most progress during the reporting period 2012–2017,

Noting with appreciation the report by the Director General on the implementation of General Conference resolution GC.17/Res.3 as contained in document GC.18/7, regarding gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Welcoming UNIDO's active engagement in international platforms and global events aimed at promoting women's economic empowerment, including the Eurasian Women's Forum and the International Gender Champions network, and noting with appreciation that UNIDO has established a broad network of stakeholders in the public and private sectors working on the economic empowerment of women,

Expressing appreciation for the programmatic activities undertaken by UNIDO to, inter alia, increase the access of women to productive resources and financial

services, create enabling conditions for women's entrepreneurship and job creation, education and vocational training and women's leadership roles, promote women's agency and leadership in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and build the knowledge and capacity for gender-responsive industrial development,

Welcoming UNIDO's enhanced focus on gender-balanced recruitment practices and measures for an enabling environment to accelerate progress towards equal representation of women among personnel,

Noting that, while improvements have been achieved, women represent only 35.83 per cent of staff in the Professional and higher categories and 36 per cent of all consultants, as of 31 December 2018,

Noting with appreciation the revised UNIDO Policy on the prohibition, prevention and resolution of harassment, including sexual harassment, discrimination and abuse of authority (DGB/2019/12), the associated guide for managers, and the organizational capacity-building on harassment awareness, as well as the Director General's zero-tolerance approach and reporting on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), in line with the Secretary-General's Bulletin on "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" (ST/SGB/2003/13),

Also taking note of UNIDO's updated Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (DGB/2019/16 of 18 September 2019),

Further taking note of the new UNIDO Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2020–2023 (GC.18/15),

1. *Requests* the Director General to fully and effectively implement the strategic objectives and priority action areas outlined in the UNIDO Strategy for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, 2020–2023 (GC.18/15), to enhance delivery of global results in this area, through an implementation plan with a special focus on gender equality and women's economic empowerment, and to present it to Member States;

2. *Requests* the Director General to sustain achieved progress and to further improve compliance with the performance indicators of the updated United Nations system accountability frameworks for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, consisting of the System-wide Action Plan 2.0 (UN-SWAP 2.0) and the United Nations Country Team System-wide Action Plan (UNCTSWAP) Gender Equality Scorecard;

3. *Requests* the Director General to mainstream a gender perspective in the Organization's strategic planning and programmatic activities, including through gender-responsive planning, tools development, trainings and enhanced reporting on results and measures to be undertaken in support of the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

4. *Encourages* the Director General to increase the quantity and quality of targeted technical assistance to women across value chains, including in the field of agribusiness, trade, investment and innovation as well as energy and environment, through, inter alia, increased development of joint programmes that create synergies between Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, and other inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID)-relevant SDGs;

5. *Requests* the Director General to continue to strengthen the efforts of UNIDO to increase women's economic empowerment, including through capacity-building programmes on improving market access and the availability of financial resources and information communication technologies;

6. *Encourages* the Director General, within existing resources to strengthen the promotion of women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, inter alia, through the exchange of best practices, dedicated educational and capacity-building programmes to support women's economic leadership and mentorship, the internationalization of women-owned and women-led small and medium-sized

enterprises, and the advancement of women's digital skills to scale up their contribution to ISID;

7. *Also encourages* the Director General to continue organizing events and panels, with public and private sector participation, to contribute to the better understanding of the gender and industrialization nexus and women's economic empowerment issues, as well as related opportunities and challenges in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and to publicize the outcome;

8. *Encourages to contribute* to the formulation of new gender-responsive United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks as part of the United Nations Development System reform and accountabilities under the United Nations Country Teams' SWAP framework;

9. *Also encourages* the Director General to promote the collection, analysis and use of sex-disaggregated industrial statistics and data, and to disseminate such data through publications, in order to assess progress towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women in the context of industrial development and the 2030 Agenda;

10. *Requests* the Director General to further strengthen efforts towards achieving gender balance in staffing and an enabling, family-friendly and harassment-free working environment as outlined in the UNIDO Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2020–2023 (GC.18/15);

11. *Requests* the Director General to ensure that senior managers provide strong leadership and support to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women as an integral part of the work of UNIDO;

12. *Encourages* the Director General to mobilize extrabudgetary resources and multi-stakeholder partnerships for further advancing gender equality and women's economic empowerment in the context of industrial development and for UNIDO's activities in this area;

13. *Requests* the Director General to regularly report on gender equality and the empowerment of women at future sessions of the General Conference under a dedicated item, as recommended by the forty-seventh session of the Industrial Development Board, and to submit to the General Conference at its nineteenth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

GC.18/Res.3 UNIDO AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES^{10,11}

The General Conference:

Recalling the Lima Declaration: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (GC.15/Res.1),

Also recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes, inter alia, that all countries, including small island developing States (SIDS), still face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development,

Further recalling the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern that climate change and sea level rise continue to pose a significant risk to SIDS and their development efforts,

Recalling the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action), the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of

¹⁰ Submitted by Cuba, Dominican Republic and Norway, and co-sponsored by Austria, Germany, Ireland, Peru, the Philippines, Spain, and the Group of 77 and China.

¹¹ The delegation of Brazil clarified its position on this matter.

Small Island Developing States and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA Pathway),

Noting that the comprehensive review of United Nations system support for SIDS carried out by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU/REP/2016/7) in 2016 provided recommendations to the United Nations agencies, which included, among others, to mainstream the SAMOA Pathway in strategic plans,

Taking note of the Political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, adopted by the General Assembly on 10 October 2019, which calls for, among others, the scaling-up of investments for economic growth and diversification, as well as in science and technology as a means of incentivizing innovation and entrepreneurship, addressing through innovative approaches chemical wastes and plastic litter, and the importance of access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for small island developing States,

Acknowledging that inclusive and sustainable industrial development can effectively contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and to the sustainable development of SIDS,

Expressing appreciation for UNIDO's efforts in support of SIDS, including the SAMOA Pathway partnership launched with SIDS DOCK establishing the network of regional sustainable energy centres for SIDS in Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean,

Takes note of UNIDO's Small Island Developing States Strategy 2019–2025 (GC.18/CRP.5),

1. *Requests* the Director General to implement the SIDS Strategy and to continue to align UNIDO's SIDS programmes and projects to support the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway;

2. *Also requests* the Director General to continue the activities of UNIDO, in line with the strategy and the priorities outlined in UNIDO's medium-term programme framework (MTPF), within its mandate and in cooperation with other development partners, to support the sustainable development efforts of SIDS, to address climate change, reduce poverty and inequalities and to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development;

3. *Encourages* the Director General to further promote multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with the private sector, as appropriate, with a view, inter alia, to support the implementation of UNIDO's SIDS Strategy;

4. *Requests* the Director General to report on the implementation of UNIDO's SIDS Strategy to the General Conference at its nineteenth session.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

GC.18/Res.4 UNIDO AND THE PROGRAMME FOR COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP¹²

The General Conference:

Underlining the importance of partnerships for the realization of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) as well as the need to mobilize knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources from various actors to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

¹² Submitted by the European Union and its Member States, and the Group of 77 and China, and co-sponsored by Kyrgyzstan and Peru.

Noting the effective contribution of the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the mobilization of public and private resources to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Taking note that the PCP model provides an integrated and holistic approach for meeting Member States' needs for industrial development, aligned with national industrialization strategies,

Recalling General Conference resolution GC.17/Res.2 on UNIDO and the Programme for Country Partnership, which invited UNIDO to draw on lessons learned from the piloting phase to further enhance its approach in the expansion of the PCP to additional countries,

Also recalling the updated medium-term programme framework for 2018–2021, which refers to multi-stakeholder partnerships, in particular through the PCP approach, as a key element to the implementation approach of UNIDO and the dual objective of integration and scaling-up,

Welcoming the results achieved so far in the implementation of the pilot PCPs, which highlight:

(a) The PCP as an effective means for scaling up the impact of the work of UNIDO and enhancing the contribution of the Organization to countries' industrial development agendas,

(b) The high-level commitment and ownership of the PCPs at the national level,

(c) The involvement of various partners from programming to implementation and the established partnerships and synergies through the PCPs, including the enhanced collaboration with the United Nations development system,

Taking note with appreciation of the continuous efforts undertaken by the Secretariat and the Director General to:

(a) Regularly brief and inform Member States on the progress of the PCP and engage in a dialogue on the way forward,

(b) Refine the PCP approach building on the recommendations of the independent mid-term evaluation of the PCP and the lessons learned through the piloting phase,

1. *Invites* Member States wishing to develop a PCP to ensure full ownership and leadership, and allocate the necessary human and financial resources to ensure the success of the PCP;

2. *Encourages* Member States to contribute to the Partnership Trust Fund to ensure the sustainability of the PCP approach and its further expansion in the medium-term;

3. *Encourages* the Director General to support PCP Governments to enhance cooperation with the private sector as well as to support the Governments to mobilize public and private partnerships and resources for the advancement of ISID;

4. *Calls on* UNIDO to support the use of the PCP model, including by self-starter countries, as a positive contribution towards sustainable industrial development;

5. *Invites* the Secretariat to build on the successes, experiences and lessons learned through the piloting phase, including the upcoming independent final evaluations of pilot PCPs, and integrate these in the expansion to other countries, as well as facilitate the technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries;

6. *Invites* the Secretariat to continue to regularly brief Member States on PCP progress, including the selection process of candidates;

7. *Calls on* the Secretariat to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices among current and prospective PCP countries;

8. *Requests* the Director General to provide for systematic engagement with United Nations Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams in the PCP countries as well as the integration of PCPs into United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks to ensure full use of United Nations Resident Coordinators services, synergies and coherence in operations to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of PCPs;

9. *Requests* the Director General to enhance the integration of UNIDO services and the closer coordination between Headquarters and the field network through the PCP.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

GC.18/Res.5 ACCELERATING UNIDO'S ACTIVITIES OF INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE EFFECTIVE TRANSFER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES¹³

The General Conference:

Recalling the Lima Declaration: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (General Conference resolution GC.15/Res.1),

Also, recalling the adoption, in 2015, of United Nations General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and *underlining* UNIDO's General Conference resolution GC.16/Res.2, which calls on UNIDO to align all its activities with the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Appreciating UNIDO's continuous alignment of its programmatic objectives and priorities with the 2030 Agenda and in line with General Conference resolution GC.16/Res.2 and with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015), and its efforts to consolidate the participation of UNIDO in United Nations system-wide coherence mechanisms, including the United Nations Resident Coordinator system for the benefit of its Member States through highlighting the importance of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), following the United Nations General Assembly resolution [72/279](#),

Welcoming the continued efforts of the Secretariat to find, in consultation with Member States, new approaches to delivering UNIDO's technical assistance in a way that creates synergies with other public and private sector organizations with a view to maximizing the positive impact and contributing to ISID in developing countries and least developed countries,

Recognizing the beneficial aspects of the well-designed expansion of the programmatic approach through the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP), which integrates the design and delivery of its core functions in its recipient Member States,

Recognizing the significance and relevance of resolution GC.18/Res.4 presented by the European Union and its Member States and the Group of 77 and China to the eighteenth session of the General Conference regarding the PCP,

¹³ Submitted by Egypt, and co-sponsored by Kenya, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand, and the Group of 77 and China.

Appreciating the leadership of the Director General and the wide range of technical and financial partnerships which UNIDO has been developing for the scaling-up of technical cooperation since the Lima Declaration of 2013,

Noting with appreciation the contributions of UNIDO in the promotion of ISID towards the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (General Assembly resolution [70/293](#) of 25 July 2016) and recognizing the essential role played by UNIDO in upholding the importance of industrial development as an engine of growth for developing countries,

1. *Welcomes* the constructive efforts of UNIDO towards strengthening “knowledge and institutions”, in line with the fourth strategic priority of the medium-term programme framework, 2018–2021, and calls upon UNIDO to utilize the full capacity of its field offices, in partnership with the United Nations Resident Coordinator system, to develop and implement programmes and projects leading to more effective contributions in the acceleration of industrial development in developing and least developed countries, while using the most efficient possible means, and in collaboration and partnership with international donors and financial institutions;

2. *Requests* the Director General and UNIDO to continue to sensitize and engage with policy makers, the public and private sectors and academia to scale up the transfer of knowledge, experiences and best practices that exist in successful industrial development models to developing countries, through the holding of seminars and workshops in the context of the South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation frameworks, within existing resources;

3. *Invites* UNIDO to engage further in the implementation of ISID while ensuring the achievement of a low-carbon future and guaranteeing that no one is left behind, and in providing more opportunities for the transfer of technology to developing countries, especially in the fields that are most relevant to industrial development and sustainable development in those countries;

4. *Invites* the Secretariat, within existing resources, to hold informative workshops regarding lessons learned and best practices emanating from the implementation of the PCP, for both officials of developing countries and the staff of UNIDO, on the regional and intraregional levels, as well as the arrangement, upon request and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, of forums that convene the PCP countries, donor countries and institutions, and prospective countries that may wish to join the PCP;

5. *Calls also upon* the Secretariat of UNIDO to provide summarized information of the accumulated knowledge from successful industrial developmental models, including best practices of PCPs, to Member States and on UNIDO’s web platforms, annually and with a comparative analytical approach that focuses on means of reproducing the most successful methodology and applications.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

**GC.18/Res.6 UNIDO AND THE THIRD INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
DECADE FOR AFRICA¹⁴**

The General Conference:

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the pledge to ensure that “no one will be left behind” and to “endeavour to reach the furthest behind first”, which calls for explicit action to end extreme poverty, curb inequalities, confront discrimination and fast-track progress for the furthest behind,

¹⁴ Submitted by the African Group, and co-sponsored by Japan, Mexico, Norway, Peru, the European Union and its Member States, and the Group of 77 and China.

Recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolution [70/293](#) on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) (2016–2025), which mandates UNIDO, as the lead Organization, to develop, operationalize and spearhead the implementation of IDDA III as well as enhance technical assistance and efforts towards resource mobilization for African countries specifically for this purpose,

Further recalling the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which stresses the critical importance of industrial development for developing countries, as a critical source of economic growth, economic diversification, and value addition, and which also reaffirms the need to achieve a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa,

Acknowledging the current socioeconomic situation in the majority of African countries and impact on political stability and security, which call for the urgent support of national efforts to reduce abject poverty and socioeconomic inequalities through job creation, including through inclusive industrial development,

Commending the close collaboration between UNIDO and the African Union and the invaluable effective contribution of traditional and non-traditional donors and development partners to ensure the meaningful and concrete implementation and outcome of IDDA III,

Appreciating the Director General in particular for the various initiatives to create awareness and mobilize resources towards the implementation of IDDA III, in particular the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) and its contribution to the implementation of IDDA III,

Bearing in mind the need to pull together to ensure that IDDA III succeeds, based on concrete projects in support of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) and the attainment of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including programmes that focus on socioeconomic growth, job creation and poverty reduction,

Requests the Director General to:

1. Sustain consultations with African countries to ensure full ownership of projects and activities aimed at delivering concrete results, including job creation and poverty reduction, and that the projects are aligned to the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and the 2063 Agenda of the African Union;
2. Continue the dialogue with the African Union on joint measures that facilitate the concrete sustained implementation of inclusive industrial development by African Union member States in support of IDDA III;
3. Maintain efforts to seek and promote broad-based partnerships in implementing IDDA III projects and programmes, necessary to ensure synergies among the activities of all stakeholders, private and public, among African countries, traditional and non-traditional donors, as well as the United Nations specialized agencies and with bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives and platforms, including the Group of 20, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) initiative in support of industrialization in Africa and least developed countries;
4. Continue working closely with Member States, the African Union Commission and international organizations to provide necessary data and information in order to present a comprehensive overview of Africa-centred programmes and projects, as well as all international organizations and donors, to ensure synergies and to identify where additional efforts would be needed to implement IDDA III;
5. Incorporate best practices in the design of projects under technical expertise provided to African countries in respective domestic industrial development policies and activities;

6. Encourage technology transfers between South-South and North-South, as well as capacity-building, taking into account the Paris Agreement, including Industry 4.0;

7. Facilitate the implementation of the PCP as an effective tool for scaling up the role of UNIDO in the implementation of IDDA III and enhancing the contribution of the Organization to African countries' industrial development agenda;

8. Report regularly to the policymaking organs on the tangible progress in terms of concrete project implementation and impact at national levels, as well as the feedback from development partners, with a view to sustaining momentum for resource mobilization and supporting data collection.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

GC.18/Res.7 UNIDO ACTIVITIES IN ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT^{15,16}

The General Conference:

Reaffirming United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, which aim to leave no one behind and reach those furthest behind first,

Also reaffirming our commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and efforts to eradicate poverty in the context of sustainable development,

Welcoming the efforts of UNIDO to support Member States in achieving the goals of the above-mentioned document,

Recalling previous General Conference resolutions on energy and the environment and in particular GC.8/Res.2 on the Global Environment Facility and technical cooperation activities, GC.15/Res.4 on UNIDO activities in energy and environment, GC.16/Res.2 on UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, and GC.17/Res.4 on UNIDO activities in energy and the environment,

Taking note of the report by the Director General on UNIDO's activities related to energy and the environment (GC.18/11) and *welcoming* the concrete outcomes of UNIDO's energy and environment services, technical cooperation projects and programmes,

Acknowledging the positive contribution of the Organization towards the implementation of multilateral climate and environmental agreements and its catalytic role in the promotion of sustainable energy solutions and resource efficiency in manufacturing processes,

Recalling that UNIDO, under the medium-term programme framework (MTPF), 2018–2021 (IDB.45/8/Add.2), is expected, under the strategic priority of safeguarding the environment, to advance environmentally sustainable industrial development including by facilitating resource efficiency, and the sound treatment and disposal of wastes,

1. *Welcomes* the activities of UNIDO in the area of energy and the environment that are supporting Governments and industries in their sustainable industrial transformation and addressing emerging global trends such as the convergence of technologies and energy systems, advances in new materials, green

¹⁵ Submitted by the European Union and its Member States, and co-sponsored by Belarus, Japan, Kenya, Montenegro, Norway, and Peru.

¹⁶ The delegation of Brazil clarified its position on this matter.

chemistry and a broad range of innovation pathways for green and climate-friendly products, processes, and new business models, including circular economy;

2. *Requests* the Director General, within the mandate and resources of UNIDO:

(a) To continue to integrate and scale up the energy and environment activities of UNIDO, focusing on:

(i) Supporting Governments and industries to provide sustainable and resilient soft and hard infrastructure for industrial development, including favourable regulatory frameworks, sustainable design, eco-industrial parks, sustainable energy supply, and access to water;

(ii) Supporting industries to contribute to climate neutrality and circular economy without delay by adopting energy and resource efficient manufacturing practices and innovations in design, production processes and product lifespan management, and by delivering related services;

(iii) Supporting Governments and industries in fulfilling national commitments under multilateral climate and environmental agreements, by facilitating access to affordable green and climate finance, which contributes to a just transition towards sustainable industrialization.

(b) To further strengthen the implementation efficiency and effectiveness of UNIDO programmes co-financed by the Global Environment Facility, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, bilateral donors and multi-donor initiatives in industry-related energy, climate and environment fields, and to report on these programmes to the Industrial Development Board;

(c) To expand appropriate cooperation mechanisms, networks, partnerships, and agreements on the implementation of projects and initiatives, with the entities of the United Nations development system, other international and regional organizations in the fields of energy, climate and environment, to build on complementarities, create synergies and increase efficiency and effectiveness;

(d) To further strengthen implementation efficiency and effectiveness of the projects and programmes of UNIDO on the productive and sustainable management of resources, including waste, and to further pursue programmes and projects aimed at the development of eco-industrial parks, circular economy, and, in line with the Minamata Convention, the reduction of mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining as well as mercury emissions from cement and other industries;

(e) To foster, in line with national needs and priorities, innovation and the transfer of know-how and technology on mutually agreed terms, in the fields of clean technology, industrial energy efficiency and management, resource efficiency, waste, water and materials management and the use of sustainable energy as well as circular economy practices in industrial processes and at value chain, industry and country levels;

(f) To strengthen UNIDO's role in advancing the decarbonization of industry by assisting Member States, especially developing and least developed countries, in incorporating industry perspectives and targets in their nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement and by building the capacity to mobilize investment through the Green Climate Fund;

(g) To enhance the contribution of UNIDO to the Fourth Industrial Revolution by assisting developing countries in the uptake of transformative digital technologies, which would facilitate circular economy practices in value chains and industries;

(h) To organize technical meetings and consultations for experts from Member States on circular economy, with a view to facilitating exchanges on best practices, and emerging innovations and the promotion and adoption of circular economy principles and practices by industries of Member States, as well as to continue

undertaking formal and informal briefings, as recommended in General Conference resolution GC.17/Res.4 (i).

3. *Encourages* Member States, on a voluntary basis, to contribute to the Trust Fund for Renewable Energy for Productive Activities to ensure a continued scale-up of activities of UNIDO in energy;

4. *Requests* the Director General to report to the forty-eighth session of the Industrial Development Board on further developments regarding the implementation of the present resolution.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

**GC.18/Res.8 ABU DHABI MINISTERIAL DECLARATION FOR THE
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

The General Conference:

Taking note of the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries convened in Abu Dhabi on 2 November 2019,

Taking note also of the Abu Dhabi Ministerial Declaration for the Least Developed Countries adopted by the Ministerial Conference and contained in the annex to the present resolution,

1. *Invites* the Director General to take special account of the actions taken by UNIDO and its partners towards achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development in least developed countries and provide UNIDO support for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 ([A/CONF.219/3/Rev.1](#)), as set out in the Declaration adopted by the Ministers in Lima on 1 December 2013;

2. *Also invites* all development partners to ensure joint action through reinforced partnership frameworks such as the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) to address the needs of least developed countries and identify lessons learned and good practices in the context of the evaluation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2020 and with a view to adopt a new programme of action at the Fifth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (UNLDC-V) in 2021;

3. *Further invites* UNIDO, within existing and extrabudgetary resources, to contribute to the formulation of the UNLDC-V programme of action and its further implementation, within its mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development;

4. *Requests* the Director General to report on related UNIDO activities to the General Conference at its nineteenth session.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

Annex

Ministerial Declaration
**“Accelerating industrialization in LDCs: Integrating lessons
learned and innovative approaches”**

UNIDO Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries (LDC)
Eighth session, Abu Dhabi, 2 November 2019

We, the Ministers of Industry, Economy, Trade and/or Commerce and/or Heads of Delegation, of the least developed countries (LDCs) gathered in Abu Dhabi, on 2 November 2019 at the eighth UNIDO Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries, to provide strategic guidance to accelerate the achievement of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in LDCs,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (IPoA), adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution [65/280](#) of 17 June 2011, in which the General Assembly called upon all relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action, also recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the principles set out in resolution [70/1](#) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its seventieth session, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and its recognition of the shared responsibility for people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership;

Welcoming the Political Declaration of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development titled “Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development” of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, adopted on 15 October 2019 and upholding the resoluteness between now and 2030 to end poverty and hunger everywhere; combat inequalities within and among countries; build peaceful, just and inclusive societies and create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities,

Reiterating the importance of implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), and UNIDO’s Programme for Country Partnership,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action to overcome the structural challenges faced by least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals, and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling the Ministerial Declaration on IPoA adopted on 26 September 2019 in New York, and the concern it raised about the declining trend in official development assistance (ODA) flows and its impact on the implementation of SDGs, and request the development partners to fulfil the targets as LDCs are battered by newly emerging challenges, including climate change-related catastrophes, natural disasters, resource constraints and security challenges,

Welcoming the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the Fifth United Nations Conference on

LDCs and the proposed deliberations and preparations for the post-IPoA new programme of action for LDCs, including its scope; duration; national and regional reviews; preparatory committee meetings and the contributions by the United Nations development system and other international organizations,

Endorse the Declaration of the Eighth UNIDO LDC Ministerial Conference hereby contained in *Annex I*.

Annex I

Next decade of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. We reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achieving its 17 SDGs remains a paramount objective of the LDCs. The respective national development plans and visions of LDCs would continue to gain from the global consensus on the pressing development challenges of LDCs, which are well reflected in the 18 LDC-related targets of relevant SDGs. As we move towards the new decade of the LDC programme of action, which also corresponds to the final decade of SDGs, we urge global development partners, United Nations system agencies, development finance institutions (DFIs), and other bilateral and multilateral institutions to strive for building effective partnerships and achieving results as planned;

2. We welcome the efforts to reform the United Nations system and commit ourselves to effectively guide and use the Resident Coordinator Office and place industrial development as an important theme in the formulation process and common country assessment (CCA) of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and throughout its implementation. Such a reform should not negatively impact field offices and technical cooperation. By taking note of the opportunities offered by the reinvigorated UNRC system, we urge the United Nations system agencies and other development actors to enhance country level partnerships;

3. We take note of the new UNSDCF and its comprehensive programmatic approach, and we highlight the need for a programmatic approach by the respective United Nations system agencies in achieving the SDGs at country level. In this regard, we appreciate UNIDO's implementing modalities such as the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) and the country programme frameworks as effective tools to translate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) into concrete actions and to build effective partnerships to mobilize resources for LDCs;

4. We appreciate the contribution of development partners towards the achievement of the SDGs and the progress achieved by several LDCs so far, and emphasize that much more is required in order to achieve the SDGs in all LDCs. Considering this challenge, revitalizing structural transformation, building productive capacities, promoting industrialization, enabling sustainable economic growth and creating decent employment are indispensable to achieve the SDGs in the LDCs;

5. We reiterate that Goal 9 and related goals are of utmost importance for LDCs as industrialization is recognized as an engine of economic growth and national development. Therefore, accelerating ISID would unleash greater momentum in national transformation leading to LDCs' graduation. Moreover, the spillover effects of inclusive and sustainable industrialization could lift the country as a whole, leaving no one and no country behind;

6. We recall the target of the IPoA to double the manufacturing value added (MVA) share in gross domestic product (GDP) in LDCs to achieve higher growth and employment as well as the Goal 9. We are concerned about the limited progress made towards this important goal, which necessitates to reinforce our efforts to achieve higher MVA and reach the SDG targets through increased multi-stakeholder partnerships to mobilize resources for ISID;

Climate change and industrial development challenges

7. We continue to identify and be alarmed by the growing danger of climate change as its impacts disproportionately burden LDCs and we acknowledge that the challenge is primarily to take effective measures to strengthen the resilience against the inevitable impacts of climate change. As industry and energy play a greater role in mitigation and adaptation, we request UNIDO to promote green industry models and low-carbon renewable energy solutions in LDCs consistent with countries' national priorities;

8. We reiterate the call of the Ministerial Declaration on the IPoA adopted on 26 September 2018 in New York, and urge all international partners to provide financial and technical support and technology transfer to LDCs to ensure that all LDCs can engage effectively in low-emission and climate resilient development that will protect the lives of our populations, economies and systems;

9. We welcome the agreement, reached in Katowice on rules to implement the Paris Agreement, in particular on ways to measure and report on countries' emission-cutting efforts and stress the necessity of developed countries and leading carbon-emitting developing countries to continue undertaking major efforts for climate change mitigation. In this regard, we take note of the pledges made by many countries about new contributions to the Green Climate Fund and the commitment announced by the private sector during the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit 2019 and the 74th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations;

10. We appreciate the official announcement of the launch of the Climate Investment Platform during the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit 2019. We take note of its objective of seeking direct mobilization of US\$ 1 trillion in clean energy investment by 2025 in 20 LDCs in its first year, and reiterate the commitment made for US\$ 100 billion per year under the Paris Agreement;

Technical cooperation and policy advisory service

11. We acknowledge that technical cooperation by the United Nations development system agencies is a major vehicle for delivering services for capacity-building in LDCs, particularly the new approach on the humanitarian development nexus, and we commit its effective facilitation as an integral part of our national development priority;

12. We underscore the importance of UNIDO services in the areas of creating shared prosperity; advancing economic competitiveness; safeguarding the environment; and strengthening knowledge and institutions for building productive capacities and facilitating structural transformation in LDCs. Acknowledging such a significant role of UNIDO, we urge the Organization to continue pursuing its technical cooperation programmes, advisory services and global forums to accelerate and enlarge inclusive industrialization in LDCs. In particular, we urge UNIDO to expand its programmatic frameworks, such as the CP and PCP approaches, and call on Governments to actively lead the programming and funds mobilization;

13. While taking note of the new UNSDCF and the envisioned coherent approach by the United Nations development system at country level, we encourage UNIDO to continue with the programmatic approach. In this regard, we appreciate UNIDO's efforts to expand the PCP model to Cambodia, Rwanda and Zambia and further request that UNIDO expands and/or mainstreams its PCP model, initiated and piloted in Senegal and Ethiopia, to other LDCs in all regions upon their request, taking into account lessons learnt from the mid-term evaluation and best practices;

14. We congratulate those LDCs – Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu – which are gearing up for graduation in the coming years, and emphasize the importance of tailor-made technical cooperation support services from the United Nations development system, enabling them to continue developing their productive capacities. In this regard, we look forward to and express our commitment to the important role to be played by the Inter-Agency

Task Force on LDC Graduation, led by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS);

15. We recognize that a key structural challenge in most of the LDCs is to raise the share of manufacturing output in GDP. We would therefore further strengthen our efforts to accelerate capital accumulation, knowledge development, technology acquisition, and diffusion, expansion of higher value addition and employment creation in manufacturing sectors. We will also reinforce efforts to stimulate productive capacity-building in labour-intensive manufacturing industries, with the objective of raising output and increasing the quality of those goods that are already produced as well as maximizing direct employment creation. In this regard, we request UNIDO to look into the strength and effectiveness of national policies and institutional capacities of LDCs, to promote staple crop processing zones and SMEs with a special emphasis on production value chain, and to provide advisory support to fine tune industrial policy frameworks for the future, as requested by the countries;

16. We underline the necessity for multilateral trade agreements to support the design of effective production and export initiatives of goods and services in LDCs to accelerate and foster their graduation process, and we congratulate the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) under the auspices of the African Union and the support it attracted from the international community;

17. We identify that LDCs are still further away from the target of two per cent of global exports called for in the Istanbul Programme of Action and target 17.11 per cent of the SDGs. Therefore, with a view to realizing the SDG target of doubling the LDCs' share of global exports by 2020, we commit to work with international partners to ensure market access as well as transforming the LDCs' comparative advantage into competitive advantage;

Partnership development

18. We take note with appreciation of the Report of the Secretary-General on SDG Progress 2019, and we are concerned about the limited progress made by LDCs, which necessitates to redouble our efforts to achieve the SDGs. To gather adequate financial, technical and institutional resources, we need to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships, focused in particular on building productive capacities, eradicating poverty and promoting inclusive growth, as well as the implementation of social protection systems, particularly for the poorest and most vulnerable;

19. We reiterate that the collaboration between Member States, UNIDO, the United Nations Secretariat, in particular UN-OHRLLS, United Nations sister agencies, financing institutions and other development partners/donors plays an important role in supporting LDCs on their path to graduation. In particular by intensifying technical assistance and capacity-building activities, while identifying innovative finance and investment schemes and mechanisms that will facilitate the implementation objectives and actions towards the graduation of LDCs and are actively driven by the host Governments;

20. We take note of the progress made in the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) under the leadership of UNIDO as required by resolution [A/RES/70/293](#) of the United Nations General Assembly adopted in 2016. We appreciate, in particular, the various initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat including the development of a joint roadmap for the implementation of IDDA III to ensure higher development impact; the launch of the IDDA III Champions Initiative comprising heads of State from Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Malta, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, and Zambia, which serves as a high-level platform for the promotion of Africa's industrialization including LDCs; the institutionalization of IDDA III focal points in various United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and regional African institutions including the African Union

Commission and regional economic institutions, as well as development finance institutions and the business sector for enhanced cooperation on IDDA III activities; the implementation of various concrete industrial development programmes including the Programmes for Country Partnerships in various African countries. In this regard, we call upon UNIDO to further enhance its work within the IDDA III framework to support industrialization in LDCs;

South-South and triangular cooperation

21. We take note with appreciation that a growing number of developing countries provide some form of development cooperation. As southern partnerships and southern solutions for southern problems are acknowledged as cost effective, the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation underlined the importance of South-South cooperation;

22. We acknowledge that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and is becoming more diversified while identifying new partnerships and forms of cooperation. However, we strongly acknowledge the need to deepen and scale up North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation through a more innovative approach to collaboration that will positively impact the implementation process of the IPoA and the future programme of action for LDCs. In this regard, we request to identify successful models and best practices of South-South and triangular industrial cooperation with an emphasis on models of infrastructure development, transit transport cooperation, productive capacity-building, energy, science and technology, trade, and investment, and to integrate it for future replication in LDCs;

23. We highlight the importance of South-South cooperation initiatives such as the recently founded Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC), a long-term capacity-building platform comprised of 10 universities. As an LDC-wide initiative, it was endorsed by the LDC Ministerial Conference in Addis Ababa in October 2018;

Investment promotion and financing for industrialization

24. We emphasize the important role of multi-stakeholder partnership-building in the area of investment promotion. In this regard, we take note with appreciation of the Capacity Development Programme for the investment promotion agencies of LDCs, developed by UN-OHRLLS jointly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNIDO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the European Investment Fund (EIF) and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA). Moreover, we request a contribution from all partners for investment promotion Agencies to attract, diversify and retain sustainable foreign direct investment (FDI) and derive maximum benefit from it and, to foster private sector development in LDCs, thereby contributing to their sustainable graduation;

25. We take note of the Secretary-General's report – on the follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development – and the challenges and opportunities it identified. However, we are concerned that as noted in the outcome document of the 2019 Forum on Financing for Development, parts of the multilateral system are under strain, and on the current trajectory, it will not be possible to meet the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda. Based on this cautionary assessment by the Forum, we request renewed efforts and commitment from development partners to follow the decision contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda to adopt and implement investment promotion schemes for LDCs and organize investment forums, noting the special needs of post-conflict countries;

26. We commit to strengthen the underlying investment climate, with enhanced support provided by development partners and international financial institutions, including organizing donor conferences, improving predictability,

governance, and transparency, also in procurement practices and policies, without interfering with national sovereignty and territorial integrity. We noted that providers are increasingly focusing on the ability of official development finance institutions to mobilize additional commercial financing, often referred to as “blended finance”. However, experience shows that so far it largely bypassed LDCs, owing to barriers in the enabling environment, such as macroeconomics, governance and other risks, and at the project level, due to small-sized projects and difficulties in project preparation. We commit ourselves to address these challenges to gain from this avenue of financing, and request the assistance of United Nations system agencies which contributed to the Capacity Development Programme;

Energy, infrastructure, innovation and adaptation of new technologies

27. We note with concern that universal access to modern energy by 2030 remains a daunting challenge for LDCs. Sustainable energy, encompassing its three dimensions of access, efficiency and renewable energy, is a key development enabler for many SDGs. In this, we call upon partners and request greater contribution in the form of technology, investment and resource support;

28. We stress the importance of building resilient infrastructure, including renewable energy, and information and communications technology for productive purposes, along with fostering innovation through the transfer of knowledge and technology, which are critical to effectively engage in the new industrial revolution (Industry 4.0), allowing LDCs to prosper and progress on their path to graduation;

29. We recognize the importance of digital technologies and the opportunity they could provide in the realm of trade and commit ourselves to explore this option through the promotion of e-commerce and e-services in LDCs. We reiterate the call made in the Ministerial Declaration of 25 September 2019 on developed country Members to provide preferential market access to all business-to-consumer goods and services originating from all LDCs that are exported using an e-commerce platform directly from LDCs suppliers. In this regard, we look forward to intensified and concerted action of the G20 countries to enhance the ability of LDCs to more fully engage in digital trade, as committed in the G20 Summit in 2017 in Germany;

30. We welcome the analytical work that UN-OHRLLS and other United Nations entities have undertaken with respect to enhancing access to sustainable energy in LDCs and call for stronger partnerships and new financing models to push forward sustainable energy transition in a way that enables LDCs to develop and deploy new and cost effective energy sources and technologies;

31. We appreciate the progress made so far in the work of the Technology Bank for LDCs and appreciate the critical contributions from UN-OHRLLS and the Government of Turkey towards its operationalization in 2017. We also call upon other development partners to make substantial contributions to enlarge its operational activities and we are using this opportunity to highlight the need for UNIDO to associate with the Technology Bank to contribute in the areas of sustainable industrial development and develop policies and strategies on technology and innovation in LDCs. We also use this opportunity to commend the empirical study undertaken by UN-OHRLLS and the International Telecommunication Union on the economic impact of broadband in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and commit ourselves to improve broadband connectivity to advance the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) in LDCs;

32. We take note of the need to strive towards circular economic production to design products for durability and recyclability with a view to mitigating industrialization’s environmental impacts and engage in new transformation methods;

33. We underline the necessity for multilateral trade agreements to support the design of effective production and export initiatives of goods and services in LDCs to accelerate and foster their graduation process;

Youth, women, and entrepreneurship

34. We acknowledge the necessity to foster the inclusion of vulnerable segments of our populations, especially youth and women, who represent untapped potential that needs to be actively involved in the inclusive and sustainable industrial development of our countries, with the objective to contribute to the acceleration of our graduation from the LDC category;

35. We take note of the changes happening in the realm of technology, environment, and infrastructure. While advances in technology, such as artificial intelligence, big data analytics and digital interconnectedness, are accelerating and facilitating progress, the rapid pace of change can exacerbate gaps in technology and digital skills across countries and constrain the diffusion of technology across regions, especially in the LDCs;

36. We are aware of the possibility that increasing automation of routine and some non-routine cognitive tasks has the potential to make millions of workers redundant. Taking into account these changes, we acknowledge the important role of training youth, women and persons with disabilities to adapt and gain from the opportunities created by the change, and request greater cooperation from development partners. In this regard, we encourage and pledge to support the striving youth and women entrepreneurs in LDCs to assume their role as agents of development, change and modernity, thus accelerating sustainable development;

Food security, resilience-building and post-conflict recovery

37. We are deeply concerned that globally, more than 113 million people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger, requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance in 2018 which is primarily fuelled by conflict, record-high food prices and abnormal weather patterns including prolonged drought conditions. Out of 53 countries facing a critical food insecurity or worse, 29 are LDCs with a combined population of around 80 million. It is disheartening to note that, in our previous declaration made in 2017, the figure was 71 million and now it has increased to 80 million people who are subjected to this harsh reality. We call upon our development partners to enhance their financial and in-kind support to address this emergency;

38. We note that food insecurity is a result of low agricultural productivity. We thus call upon the international community, especially our development partners and the private sector, to scale up their partnership efforts and build more synergies to help increase agricultural productivity and rural incomes in order to eliminate emergencies once and for all;

39. Taking note of ensuring food security as a major responsibility towards our populations, we commit ourselves to strengthen our institutional capacities and request United Nations development system agencies to accelerate and enlarge the provision of knowledge, technology and skills enabling LDCs not only to increase agricultural productivity, but also to improve storage, process and transport of agricultural produce. In this regard, we encourage United Nations system agencies to work together to create synergies, and use this opportunity to highlight some of the best practices benefitting LDCs, such as the Joint FAO/IAEA Programme for food and agriculture, the cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNIDO to promote sustainable, inclusive business opportunities through agri-business and agro-value chain development;

40. We stress the importance of working together with all stakeholders to further develop and implement concrete measures at national and international levels in order to build the resilience of LDCs to withstand economic shocks and mitigate their adverse effects to endure and overcome the harsh effects of climate change, to

enhance sustainable growth and protect biodiversity, and to withstand natural hazards in order to reduce the risks of disasters, as agreed upon in the IPoA;

41. We take note with appreciation of UNIDO's support to small island developing States (SIDS) to respond to the challenges of climate change and their needs for economic development as demonstrated by the continuous operation of the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) Tonga with the support of UNIDO, the Small Island Developing States Sustainable Energy Initiative (SIDS DOCK) and the Government of Austria. We also take this opportunity to request UNIDO and its partners to expand such programmes and cover other thematic areas;

42. We stress that the particular challenges faced by some LDCs in post-conflict situations, including human, economic, and social implications, need to be recognized to promote and enhance their stability with a view to achieving sustainable development, specifically Goal 16. In this regard, we underline the dire need to support the host countries and communities in providing displaced populations with skills development and sustainable livelihood activities as more and more people are displaced due to the protracted conflicts and recurring natural disasters;

The Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), the new programme for 2020–2030 and the way forward

43. We look forward to the final review of the IPoA committing ourselves to use this opportunity for the identification of national best practices in the acceleration of ISID, Goal 9 and related goals;

44. We commend UNIDO's efforts to undertake a review of its operational strategy on LDCs to capture lessons learned and best practices from among the Organization's portfolio in LDCs while implementing monitoring systems to better track progress for impact in the future; this is a major contribution to the evaluation of the IPoA and an impetus to the next programme of action;

45. We affirm full involvement in the preparation of the new programme of action for LDCs and integrate the lessons learned from the implementation of the IPoA. In this regard, we request the United Nations specialized agencies to identify best practices grouped into various thematic areas, such as energy; environment; food security and safety; agriculture and agro-industries; exports and investment promotion; infrastructure and innovation; youth; women and entrepreneurship; conflict mitigation and resilience-building; partnership-building; and policy advisory services. We take the opportunity to provide necessary support at the national level in gathering relevant data and information as a major step in shaping the programme of action for LDCs for the next decade;

46. We reiterate the importance of industrial development as an engine of growth, take this opportunity to request UNIDO to include and integrate the identified best practices and innovative approaches in the review of its LDC strategy, and to provide necessary inputs on the role of industrialization in the graduation of LDCs, in cooperation with UN-OHRLLS during the preparation of the new programme of action and the eventual inclusion of its programme for LDCs;

47. We call upon the United Nations system agencies, and particularly UNIDO, to identify innovative approaches, including those which are already being applied through its interventions in its Member States, to be put forward for the consideration of the new programme of action for LDCs and to benefit the LDCs in their quest for sustainable industrialization;

48. We request all our development partners and the international development community to pay attention to the cautionary remark on the financing aspects of the multilateral system as noted in the outcome document of the 2019 Forum on Financing for Development; we strongly call upon all countries and all partners to ensure adequate financing for the development and implementation of country-specific and

regional operational strategies, projects, and programmes for the eradication of absolute poverty, climate change mitigation and adaptation in LDCs;

49. Finally, as we review the successes, and bottlenecks encountered during the implementation of the IPoA, and preparing the way for the new programme of action for LDCs, we commit ourselves to gain from lessons learned and replicate best practices from the IPoA, and from the first five years for SDG implementation in LDCs and other countries. We request the international community including the United Nations system to come together for the successful organization of the Fifth United Nations Conference on LDCs to be held in Doha in 2021 and the preparation of a strong and action-oriented outcome document and plan of action.

[Adopted in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 2 November 2019]

GC.18/Res.9 INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES¹⁷

The General Conference:

Recognizing that as of April 2019, 97 of the 170 Member States of UNIDO were middle-income countries,

Taking note with appreciation of the High-level Conference of Middle-Income Countries convened in San José, Costa Rica, from 12 to 14 June 2013 and the resulting San José Declaration, contained in Board decision IDB.41/Dec.4,

Also taking note of the Lima Declaration: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (General Conference resolution GC.15/Res.1) and its call for due consideration that should also continue to be given to countries with different stages of development, including, inter alia, middle-income countries,

Welcoming the outcomes of the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on Middle-Income Countries at New York on 4 December 2018, and *recalling* the Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Like-Minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries, held at New York on 26 September 2019,

Acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes, inter alia, that all countries, including middle-income countries, still face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development,

Noting that inclusive and sustainable industrial development can effectively contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, integrating in a balanced manner the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/230, which requested the United Nations development system to ensure that it addresses the diverse development needs of middle-income countries in a coordinated manner through, inter alia, an accurate assessment of the national priorities and needs of these countries, taking into account the use of variables that go beyond per capita income criteria,

Also recalling that the most vulnerable countries, and in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict, and that there are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries,

Recalling General Conference resolution GC.17/Res.6 on sustainable industrial development in middle-income countries, in which the Director General was requested to identify and discuss with Member States a strategic framework for

¹⁷ Submitted by Belarus, and co-sponsored by Armenia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Peru, and Thailand.

collaboration of UNIDO, within its mandate and resources, with middle-income countries,

Also recalling Board decision IDB.47/Dec.7, which took note with appreciation of the draft UNIDO Strategic Framework for Partnering with Middle-Income Countries, and recommended its adoption to the General Conference at its eighteenth session,

1. *Adopts* the UNIDO Strategic Framework for Partnering with Middle-Income Countries, as contained in Board decision IDB.47/Dec.7;
2. *Requests* the Director General to prepare a work plan for its implementation, to be presented at the forty-eighth session of the Board;
3. *Underlines* the importance of the efforts of UNIDO aimed at facilitating sustainable industrial development in middle-income countries as part of a more comprehensive United Nations system-wide approach and requests the Director General to report on related UNIDO activities to the General Conference.

*9th plenary meeting
7 November 2019*

Annex

Documents submitted to the General Conference at its eighteenth regular session

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title</i>
GC.18/1	3	Provisional agenda
GC.18/1/Add.1	3	Annotated provisional agenda
GC.18/2	8	Report of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its forty-sixth session, 26–28 November 2018
GC.18/3	8	Report of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its forty-seventh session, 1–3 July 2019
GC.18/3/Add.1		Report of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its forty-seventh session. Addendum. Resumed forty-seventh session of 6 September 2019
GC.18/4	9	Forum on industrial development issues. Issues paper by the Secretariat
GC.18/5	10 (b)	Financial situation of UNIDO. Report by the Director General
GC.18/6	13	UNIDO and the United Nations development system reform, including the new Resident Coordinator System and the field network. Report by the Director General
GC.18/7	14	UNIDO, gender equality and the empowerment of women. Report by the Director General
GC.18/8	15	UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Report by the Director General
GC.18/9	15	UNIDO's Small Island Developing States Strategy, 2019–2025. Report by the Director General
GC.18/10	16	Update on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III). Report by the Director General
GC.18/11	17	UNIDO activities related to energy and the environment. Report by the Director General
GC.18/12	18	UNIDO activities related to agribusiness, trade capacity-building and job creation. Report by the Director General
GC.18/13	19	UNIDO activities in support of least developed countries. Report by the Director General
GC.18/14	22	Relations with intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations. Note by the Director General
GC.18/15	14	Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2020–2023. Report by the Director General
GC.18/16		Candidatures for the appointment of an External Auditor. Report by the Director General
GC.18/17		Report of the Main Committee. Submitted by the Chair of the Main Committee H.E. Ms. Vivian Rose Okeke (Nigeria)

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title</i>
GC.18/L.1	5	Credentials of representatives to the Conference
GC.18/L.2, Add.1, Add.2, Add.3 and Add.4	10(a), 10(b), 10(c), 10(d), 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23	Draft decisions and resolutions submitted on behalf of the Main Committee by its Chair

GC.18/CRP.1 and Add.1	4	Report on the results of the informal consultations of Permanent Missions in Vienna for the preparation of the General Conference. Submitted by the President of the forty-seventh session of the Industrial Development Board, H.E. Mr. Senén Florensa Palau (Spain)
GC.18/CRP.2	10(b)	Status of assessed contributions. Note by the Secretariat
GC.18/CRP.3	10(b)	Status of unutilized balances of appropriations. Note by the Secretariat
GC.18/CRP.4	12	Integrated Results and Performance Framework: Updated indicators and definitions
GC.18/CRP.5	15	Small Island Developing States Strategy, 2019–2025
GC.18/CRP.6	9	Forum on industrial development issues. Issues paper on additional events
GC.18/CRP.7	7	“BRIDGE for Cities 4.0 – Connecting cities through the new industrial revolution”. Note by the Secretariat

GC.18/INF/1 and Rev.1	–	Advance information for participants
GC.18/INF/2	–	Provisional list of participants
GC.18/INF/2/Rev.1	–	List of participants
GC.18/INF/3	3	List of documents
GC.18/INF/4	–	Decisions and resolutions of the General Conference

IDB.46/2	7	<i>Annual Report of UNIDO 2017</i>
IDB.47/2	7	<i>Annual Report of UNIDO 2018</i>
IDB.47/5	11	Programme and budgets, 2020–2021. Proposals of the Director General
IDB.47/5/Add.1	11	Programme and budgets, 2020–2021. Adjustments to the proposals of the Director General
IDB.47/5/Add.2	11	Programme and budgets, 2020–2021. Additional adjustments to the proposals of the Director General
IDB.47/6/Rev.1	10(a)	Scale of assessments for the fiscal period 2020–2021. Note by the Secretariat
IDB.47/7	10(c)	Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2020–2021. Proposals of the Director General

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title</i>
IDB.47/9	10(c)	Proposal by the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues providing a proposal regarding the unutilized balances of appropriations
IDB.47/26	20	Strategic framework for partnering with middle-income countries. Report by the Director General
IDB.47/CRP.13	11	UNIDO in the United Nations Resident Coordinator system. Note by the Secretariat
PBC.35/15/Rev.1	4	Lists of States included in Annex I to the Constitution of UNIDO
PBC.35/CRP.5	10(d)	Candidates for the appointment of an External Auditor. Note by the Secretariat
