

**Speech note (Draft for internal discussion)**

**UNIDO 48<sup>th</sup> Industrial Development Board Meeting**

**November 23 – 25, 2020**

**Directorate General of Industry,**

**Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion**

**Sultanate of Oman**

## **Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,**

1. It is my pleasure to greet you today during the UNIDO 48<sup>th</sup> Industrial Development Board (IDB) meeting.
2. The Sultanate is delighted to join distinguished Member States in reviewing UNIDO's annual achievement with its global mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), and more importantly, UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, among others.
3. We acknowledge UNIDO's dedication in convening this important meeting and congratulate the acting president of the 48<sup>th</sup> IDB, H.E Dr. Darmansjah Djumala. In particular, I would like to highlight the pivotal role of His Excellency Li Yong, Director General of UNIDO, for his stewardship of the UNIDO.
4. Only through active cooperation and partnership - we can ensure the success of such an ambitious undertaking by making a critical contribution to global development.
5. We welcome the positive progress made by UNIDO on its Medium-Term Programme Framework (MTDP 2018-21) and the United Nations development system reform.

6. The economic and social consequences of the pandemic are felt strongly in both developed and developing countries. At the same time, inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) plays a critical role in the immediate response and the longer-term recovery.
7. At this juncture, all nations should work closely more than ever in responding to the pandemic and building a better future.
8. We firmly believe that manufacturing was, is, and will be the bedrock of a robust, inclusive, and sustainable economic system.
9. Manufacturing is the most fruitful ground for entrepreneurship, technological advancement, and increased productivity, as it creates economic growth, income, and social mobility.

## **Honorable Members,**

10. We are facing a global health crisis, unlike any in modern history.
11. The COVID-19 is spreading fast globally; it is spreading human suffering and upending people's lives.
12. Restriction in people's movement, such as the border lockdown preventative measures adopted by most countries worldwide, has brought much global economic activity to a halt, and manufacturing activities and trade are no exception.
13. Early indications of the economic costs and the magnitude of estimated impacts demonstrate an urgent need for a coordinated international response to the pandemic.
14. The current response at the country level will not be sufficient to respond to the global scale and complexity of the pandemic.
15. A global health crisis requires a global response, and there is a need for global collaboration not just on health but also on trade, finance, and macroeconomic policies.
16. We appreciate the global institutions, such as UNIDO, that they are beginning to catalyze and coordinate global efforts, as well as to

provide technical support to countries coping with the health and economic consequences of the pandemic.

17. In order to tackle these enormous challenges facing international communities, stakeholders at all levels must be involved, from containing the spread of the COVID-19 virus to the development of global strategy and roadmap for economic recovery in a post-pandemic world.

18. It is, therefore, with great pleasure to see so many representatives from the government here today.

## **Excellencies,**

19. The COVID-19 pandemic poses unprecedented challenges to public sectors, businesses, and local communities in the Sultanate.
20. The Sultanate continues to gather and assess the impacts brought by the pandemic.
21. As we cannot resort to usual tools in such unusual times, the Sultanate has devised agile, targeted, and effective policy actions to minimize the pandemic's socio-economic costs.
22. The Sultanate has taken a series of preventative measures for local industries and the communities to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
23. We are honored that UNIDO has been one of our strategic partners. The UNIDO's comprehensive response to COVID-19, including its recommendations on good international practices, has greatly facilitated the development of preventative measures and policy actions for the Sultanate in responding to the pandemic's epic challenges.

## **Excellencies,**

24. We reaffirm the commitment of the Sultanate of Oman towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
25. We reassure our participation in the global efforts in responding to the pandemic and the economic recovery in a post-pandemic world.
26. We continue to advance our manufacturing sector into more advanced industrialization stages in line with the Sultanate's Vision 2040.
27. The pandemic has reminded us of the strategic importance of manufacturing development, for example, those industries supplying essential health and medical goods in the time of the pandemic.
28. We would like to acknowledge the contribution of UNIDO to the Sultanate's manufacturing development. The two recent cooperations with UNIDO, from 2016 to 2020, on Manufacturing Strategy 2040 and industrial statistics have come to great success.

## **Distinguished Members of the Audience,**

29. We call upon UNIDO to continue supporting its member states to advance inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), in particular, how member states can steer their economic recovery towards a more sustainable and inclusive path by unlocking the Fourth Industrial Revolution's transformative potential and creating "win-win" scenarios, benefitting the economy, environment, and society at large.
30. We welcome UNIDO to outreach and provide technical assistance to government institutions responsible for manufacturing development in the Sultanate, especially in the areas of health cluster development, advanced manufacturing technologies, good practices of public procurement, renewable energy, and energy efficiency as part of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) initiative.
31. As a final remark, we can together ensure a fully transparent and coordinated global response to the pandemic through broad and inclusive partnerships and make a lasting contribution to achieving United Nations Agenda 2030.

**Thank you for your attention. -End of the speech note-**