



AFGHANISTAN

STATEMENT

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UNIDO IDB 48th session

At the 48th session of the Industrial Development Board (IDB)
of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Agenda Item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2019

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Mr. President, [H.E. Mr. Darmansjah DJUMALA, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Indonesia]

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the IDB and other members for their elections to the bureau of this session. Under your leadership we are confident that this session will be successful.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank as well the outgoing President, His Excellency Senén Florensa Palau of Spain, and the bureau members for their outstanding work and contributions at the previous session.

I have listened with great interest to the statement of Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO and in this regard appreciates his efforts in leading this Organization, especially UNIDO's efforts regarding women empowerment, as well we would like to thank the Secretariat for organizing this session.

Mr. President,

Afghanistan welcomes the Director General's Annual Report for 2019 and commends UNIDO's achievements and activities carried out by the Organization in the last year.

We attach a great significance to ISID-related technical cooperation and appreciate the UNIDO's increasing technical services including through country programs.

Due to the difficulties linked to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are currently working with UNIDO on the extension by one year of the current UNIDO's Country Programme for Afghanistan initially planned to end this year.

The current UNIDO Country Program (CP) for Afghanistan titled "To promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in Afghanistan" includes important components such as support to national institutions through industrial competitiveness and trade capacity building and implementing an industrial policy for Afghanistan, private sector development, fostering entrepreneurial youth through an entrepreneurship curriculum, as well as promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Afghanistan.

It is our goal to facilitate additional programs and projects for Afghanistan within the current framework of UNIDO's Country Programme for Afghanistan for the upcoming year and we will spare no effort to convince potential donor countries to support us.

As a living document, the CP will be continuously evaluated to ensure its alignment with the relevant national priorities in Afghanistan, especially during its one year extension during a worldwide pandemic.

Mr. President,

Afghanistan also highly appreciates UNIDO's continued efforts in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, especially by integrating gender considerations in its country programmes (CP). Afghanistan's ongoing Country Programming Framework integrates a gender perspective and specific key performance indicators.

Enhancing the role of women as drivers of poverty reduction, promoting female innovators and entrepreneurs, and recognizing the link between gender equality and safeguarding the environment directly contribute to SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, and to SDG 5 on gender equality.

I am grateful for the cooperation between Afghanistan and H.E. Director General Li Yong co-leading the ICG Vienna Representation Impact Group in the framework of the International Gender Champions initiative.

Mr. President,

Afghanistan also appreciates the progress and implementation of the *Programme for Country Partnership (PCP)*, enabling the Government of Afghanistan to further develop the industrial sector in a manner that will generate employment opportunities, reduce poverty, and ensure inclusive growth and equality.

Under this mechanism, UNIDO is directly engaged with all relevant Ministries in Afghanistan.

Mr. President,

Afghanistan further welcomes *UNIDO's Regional Strategy for Asia and Pacific Region*.

Afghanistan has the potential to serve as an important hub for regional and inter-regional trade, transit, and transport. The government of Afghanistan, with support from regional and partner countries and organizations, have made efforts over the past few years to utilize this centrality in support of greater economic cooperation and integration in the region.

We would like to promote linking the UNIDO's work within the Belt and Road Initiative and the BRIDGE for Cities concept to regional mechanisms in and around Afghanistan, namely the RECCA and Heart of Asia/ Istanbul Process.

UNIDO's expertise and capacity building is highly valuable and we can certainly benefit also in the future, also when it comes to know-how on the creation of industrial parks and trade infrastructure.

We seek your joint contributions to give a boost to the Afghan market economy, in the heart of Asia, and as an Eurasian land-bridge; providing opportunities for the Afghan Private Sector, creation of jobs, promotion of foreign direct investments, increase of trade volumes, technical assistance in terms of infrastructure including cooling facilities and transit.

We believe that that a stronger cooperation with UNIDO can help countries like Afghanistan to **advance from a status of LDC** and move forward to a stable and balanced economy.

We hold the view that there should be **a mechanism through which LDCs could be prioritized** when it comes to UNIDO's development initiatives.

We attach a great significance to ISID-related technical cooperation and appreciate the UNIDO's increasing technical services including through country programs.

Mr. President,

We encourage the Director General and the Secretariat to continue moving forward to a full implementation of the Organization's mandate, thereby advancing progress of developing countries and economies in transition on the path towards economic and social prosperity. Technical assistance and capacity-building programmes are essential tools in achieving such goals in this regard.

As I conclude, allow me to once again express my appreciation for UNIDO's continued engagement and cooperation. Our joint efforts will have significant impact in the achievement of broader social and economic development goals which are prerequisites for prosperity, peace and stability.

I thank you, Mr. President.