

**Statement by the Representative of the Republic of Korea
at the 48th Session of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board**

23 November 2020, Vienna

Mr. President,

At the outset, I congratulate you on your election as the President of the 48th Session of the Industrial Development Board (IDB) and assure you of my delegation's full support throughout this session. I also would like to commend the Secretariat for its hard work that enabled the Board to meet despite the difficulties caused by COVID-19.

My delegation notes with satisfaction the steady progress made towards our common goal of “inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID)” as highlighted by the Annual Report 2019 and the Director-General's briefing. It is indeed encouraging to see that technical cooperation delivery reached USD 190 million in 2019, higher than the average delivery volume of the previous five years.

As we all understand, the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic has imposed great uncertainties and constraints on operations and project delivery. Despite all the difficulties, however, the Organization has been managing the impact of the pandemic well while technical cooperation delivery reached 52 percent as of 20 November. Hoping for better prospects next year, we encourage the Secretariat to carry on implementing its mandate with more adaptability and efficiency.

Mr. President,

This year, the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) launched its assessment report of UNIDO. The Republic of Korea, as institutional lead, thanks the UNIDO Secretariat for its cooperative and proactive engagement in the assessment. MOPAN found UNIDO's strengths in its highly valued technical expertise and effective collaboration with a range of stakeholders, and noted the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) as a positive step. At the same time, however, weaknesses were also identified; such as weak normative role, dependency on earmarked funding, and highly centralized decision-making. As reform efforts proceed, we look forward to constructive interactions between Member States and the Secretariat to make this Organization better and stronger, building upon MOPAN's findings.

My delegation views the PCP as an effective means of meeting the growing needs for industrial development with limited resources. The Republic of Korea has been a strong supporter of and contributor to the PCP. Noting with satisfaction the ongoing progress, we hope that the PCP will continuously be enhanced and innovated based upon the initial outcomes in the six target countries.

In recent years we have witnessed that technological innovations have profoundly changed manufacturing, distribution and consumption. Considering the UNIDO's unique expertise in industrial development, this revolutionary transformation should be seen as a great opportunity to promote our common goal of ISID. In this context, a project on science, technology and innovation framework has been initiated in cooperation between the Republic of Korea and the UNIDO. With this project, we hope that UNIDO will quickly adapt itself to the evolving environment.

With regard to the Secretariat's management and human resources policy, we noted the Secretariat's restructuring this year and would like to hear more about what has been achieved through such restructuring. Recognizing the improved gender balance of the Secretariat in general, we look forward to a more equitable gender balance being achieved at the senior level. In this context, we commend the Secretariat's initiatives, such as zero tolerance, gender equality and the empowerment of women, and encourage it to further enhance its efforts in this direction.

In closing, I would like to reiterate the Republic of Korea's support for and commitment to the goal of ISID and work of UNIDO. As one of the Organization's main contributors, Korea looks forward to its continued strong partnership with UNIDO.

Thank you, Mr. President. /END/