

Mr. President,

Thank you for allowing us to take the floor. Brazil would like to congratulate you on your election to preside over the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Industrial Development Board and we will contribute constructively to the success of this session. We would also like to express our appreciation to the secretariat for their hard work in organizing our meeting under challenging conditions, as well as share our gratitude to Ambassador Senén Florensa Palau, of Spain.

We fully align with the statement delivered by Ambassador Natividad, of the Philippines, on behalf of the G77+China and we would like to make some comments on our national capacity.

Brazil welcomes the report of the Director-General, which provides us with a comprehensive view of the activities of the organization and the challenges it faces. Brazil attaches great importance to the work of UNIDO and we will continue to support the organization as it moves forward to provide solutions with a mandate that is aligned with the many changes the world has experienced since UNIDO was established in 1966.

In this regard, we would like to congratulate UNIDO for its work in addressing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and its strategy to help countries recover from this situation, all while promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development under a greener perspective.

At the same time, Brazil is increasingly concerned with the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, a region that is plagued by social and economic inequality. Our region was particularly affected by the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, with some sectors being thrown back years or perhaps decades in their development, a situation that is aggravated by the reduction in funding and the restrictions that affect the flow of goods, services and people.

In this regard, Brazil welcomes the proposal for a regional approach for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region drafted by the secretariat that should help identify priorities and strategies for the region. We believe that it is essential to promote initiatives that foster and strengthen cooperation across our countries to make them more resilient and also increase value in our industry. This document, we believe, should help guide our approach in the years to come and also

The promotion of greater integration in our region is of paramount importance, as it allows us to share expertise and explore synergies between our industrial sectors and other areas of competence, while strengthening our markets. In addition, a strategy geared at the region has to examine how to improve our competitiveness and help facilitate the access of our products to markets in developed nations, which are often protected by regulations and standards that function as barriers. We call upon UNIDO to play a more decisive role in this regard.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, we reiterate our commitment to working together with fellow Member States and the secretariat to help guide the growth and evolution of UNIDO and ensure its relevance in challenging times

Thank you.