

Statement of the Armenian delegation  
at the 48th session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO  
under Agenda item 10: Inclusive and sustainable development in middle-income countries

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time that I take the floor, allow me to congratulate you on your election to the position of the President of the 48th session of the Board. I also would like to thank the outgoing President, Ambassador Natividad, for her dedicated work and efforts. And I also would like to thank the Secretariat for organizing the session of the Board in this challenging times of COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. President,

Armenia attaches special importance to and commends the efforts of UNIDO in promoting inclusive and sustainable development in middle-income countries aimed at helping them to achieve their obligations including within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs.

We appreciate the efforts of UNIDO towards operationalizing the Strategic Framework for partnering with MICs and in this context take note of the proposal for a Workplan contained in the Report by the Director General (document IDB.48/15). We would like to thank the Director General for his report. Armenia can generally agree to the proposed Workplan, specifically in part of action/impact areas and looks forward to a further cooperation with UNIDO in this regard.

We believe that the promotion of technological upgrading and building of capacities with the aim of supporting digital transformation can further contribute to successfully addressing the challenges faced by MICs and taking full advantage of the opportunities provided by the 4th Industrial revolution.

Fostering the prospects for industrial and trade diversification, support to enhanced productivity and economic growth through providing policy-advisory services to governments is equally important, especially in light of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in disrupting the industrial value chain both at national and global levels.

Focus on education and training, strengthening of knowledge and institutions with the aim of bridging the digital gap and gender divide is crucial in order to ensure the sustainability and comprehensiveness of industrial development in middle-income countries.

We also welcome the inclusion of environmental sustainability as an area of action and impact by UNIDO. Adoption of circular economy practices and green industrial policies in middle-income countries, building of capacities for increased energy-efficiency and in the area of

renewable energy are highly important in terms of supporting middle-income countries in meeting their obligations in this area.

We believe that the strategic frameworks of Country Programmes and Programmes for Country Partnerships are relevant venues to devise and implement in cooperation with governments and in partnership with other relevant stakeholders the set of actions and programmes tailored specifically to address the needs and challenges of middle-income countries. And we ask the UNIDO and the Director General to make full use of these frameworks.

I thank you, Mr. President.