

BANGLADESH

Statement by Ambassador Muhammad A. Muhith
on Agenda Item 10: Inclusive and sustainable industrial development in middle
income countries at the IDB#48, UNIDO, Vienna, 23-25 November 2020

Mr. President,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Group of 77 and China. However, I would like to make the following comments in my national capacity.

In 2018, Bangladesh fulfilled all three eligibility criteria for graduation from the list of LDCs and is on track to make it happen in 2024. In this context, Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development has been accorded high priority and in this context the Government of Bangladesh looks forward to further deepening its collaboration with UNIDO.

Bangladesh aspires to become a middle income country by 2021 and reached the lower middle-income country status in 2015. We attach great importance on the survival and sustenance of the Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs), as a strategy to sustain the current growth rate and not to get stuck in the middle-income trap. We would also like to highlight the strong commitment of our Government to promote gender equality, equitable distribution and equitable growth to development. In this context, we find the efforts for coherent alignment of the three strategic priorities area, including- 1) Technology Advancement, 2) Human Capital, and 3) Environmental Sustainability, as proposed in the workplan for implementation of the Strategic Framework as very pertinent.

Our national advancement of industrial development is set to adhere to Sustainable Development Goals related to the sustainable production and consumption, rights to decent work and preservation of the environment. Being one of the worst countries affected adversely by the climate change, we intend to be a part of the efforts of the international community envisaging a post-COVID-19 green transition. We understand that innovation offers tremendous opportunity to pave the complex and challenging transition into middle-income status. However, undeniably, such changes will resort to replace a lot of pre-existing technologies thanks to automation, where fewer jobs will be available. Hence, there will be a need to train and equip a large population to adapt with these foreseen changes, not only in private sector but also within the governance system. Moreover, circular economy - which is at the core of all UNIDO interventions - is ought to play a vital role in achieving greener economic growth.

While we attach utmost importance to the SDGs, we urge UNIDO to work on transition economies as well and to enable our SMEs to sustain such transition and gradually develop the competitiveness to graduate from low to high-tech activities.

With these comments, Bangladesh takes note of the report by the Director General contained in IDB.48/15.

Thank you, Mr. President.

