

**Statement of Pakistan for the  
48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO  
(23-25 November 2020, Vienna)**

**Agenda Item 18: Preparations for the selection process for the post of the Director General**

**Mr. President,**

Pakistan attaches high importance to the role of the Director General of UNIDO for inclusive and sustainable industrial development of the developing countries.

We believe that the incumbent Director General, Mr. LI Yong has played critical role in enhancing the profile of UNIDO in the UN system and assisting the Member States, especially the developing countries, for industrial development in his two successful terms.

**Mr. President,**

Pakistan appreciates his active contribution towards the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, especially the Goal 9 on Industry Innovation and Infrastructure. His work for mainstreaming the Fourth Industrial Revolution by promoting digital transformation and building strong innovation ecosystems in developing countries is especially commendable.

Likewise, under his able guidance, UNIDO has helped Member States to revolutionize the manufacturing sector by new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, advanced robotics and 3D printing. Mr. Li Yong has the passion for promoting circular economy practices and the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) for inclusive and sustainable industrial development. His role for providing assistance to the Member States during the COVID-19 was exemplary.

Pakistan appreciates the Candidates' Forum for the selection of the next Director General of UNIDO as it will be useful for enhancing the transparency and inclusiveness of the selection process. It will also provide an opportunity for interaction between the contesting candidates and the Member States.

Pakistan believes that the developing countries are in best position to define their priorities and challenges and to devise policies for inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Thank you, Mr. President.