

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

**Agenda Item 12: UNIDO activities in the environment and energy**

**Mr. President,**

Pakistan appreciates UNIDO for advancing environmentally sustainable industrial development. UNIDO's efforts to assist Member States in achieving targets of SDGs relating to the environment, climate change and sustainable energy, are commendable. UNIDO is promoting circular economy practices as a viable solution to the climate emergency and environmental degradation. Particular emphasis has been placed on building resilience of industrial and energy infrastructure, as well as preserving ecosystems to ensure access to ecosystem services for human well-being and productive uses.

We are pleased to note that UNIDO is assisting Member States to tackle most pressing global environmental challenges, boost decarbonization of industry and accelerate progress towards affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. In recent years, UNIDO has further expanded its capacity-building, awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing services to governments and industries through various green initiatives.

**Mr. President,**

Climate change is a serious problem especially in developing countries like Pakistan. Our country is amongst the top 10 countries which are most affected by climate change. The greenhouse gases (GHGs) are causing destruction to many ecosystems. One example is the problem of smog in Lahore and other cities of Pakistan which has resulted in increase in diseases as well as accidents. It also affects economy as life becomes standstill due to SMOG.

Pakistan is committed to adopt a low carbon trajectory and a pathway towards a 'green economy'. The Climate Change Policy 2017 lays out adaptation and mitigation strategies to respond to emerging challenges. Pakistan aims to achieve the overarching goals of natural resource conservation, ecosystem and biodiversity protection, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Pakistan is trying to increase forest cover by 1 percentage point – from 5.1 to 6.1 per cent in next few years. Pakistan also plans to reduce its current greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2030.

The issue of climate change is very high on the agenda of the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Following the success of the ‘Billion Tree Tsunami’ initiative in one province, the present Government has launched the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami Programme in the next five years and the ‘Clean and Green Pakistan’ campaign. These initiatives aim to make Pakistan pollution-free and counter the effects of climate change.

I am happy that UNIDO is working actively for promotion of renewable and alternate energy and promoting the use of indigenous resources, like Biomass. UNIDO is currently implementing a project titled Sustainable Energy Initiative for Industries in Pakistan funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project aims to reduce energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by promoting the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies in the selected industrial sectors of Pakistan.

Likewise, another GEF funded Project of climate change adaptation through water resource management in leather industry of Sialkot aims at reducing vulnerability and building resilience through integration of climate change adaptation into urban development and enhance competitiveness and compliance especially in terms of environmental issues. UNIDO’s project of transforming the leather processing industries towards low emissions and climate resilient development paths in Karachi is helping industrial processing zones through the widespread adoption of low-carbon technologies.

Thank you Mr. President.

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