

11 July 2021

**Statement of Pakistan for the
49th Session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO
(12-15 July 2021, Vienna)**

Agenda Item 7: UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Madam President,

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement of G77 and China on this agenda item.

Pakistan takes note of the report of Director General on UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and appreciates efforts of the Director General, the Secretariat and the field offices of UNIDO to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

We agree with the Director General that the pandemic devastated economic activities worldwide, leading to a decline in overall economic growth and ultimately resulting in the deepest recession since the Second World War.

The pandemic had a major impact on industry as manufacturing production dropped by 8.4 per cent, pushing 131 million additional people into poverty in 2020.

We believe that the socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic can be long-lasting and severe, unless global policy responses are initiated for a robust and sustainable recovery.

Madam President,

We are pleased to note that the Fourth Industrial Revolution is providing many solutions to fight against the pandemic and its social, economic and environmental repercussions.

Pakistan has been resolutely and successfully confronting COVID-19 and taking all possible measures to strengthen the existing health system. The Director General of the World Health Organisation also acknowledged Pakistan's efforts in fighting the COVID-19 underlining that Pakistan was one of the countries to learn from.

Pakistan's public health, economic and poverty alleviation measures were very effective to contain the pandemic. Despite COVID-19, Pakistan's economy has shown signs of recovery and resilience with several key economic indicators being very promising.

Madam President,

Pakistan has started production of the single dose Chinese CanSinoBio COVID-19 vaccine named "PakVac". It is a milestone for us as it will support our fight against COVID-19 by leading the country towards self-sufficiency in terms of COVID-19 vaccine.

We emphasize that inclusive and sustainable industrial development should remain a key priority for economic recovery and to build a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient future.

We would like to underscore that COVID-19 vaccine should be made available to all countries on an equitable basis.

UNIDO should also support developing countries to mobilize financial resources to overcome the repercussions of COVID-19 pandemic.

UNIDO should enhance the technical cooperation programs to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development through digital technologies in the process of COVID-19 recovery.

We believe that with international cooperation and support to each other, we will be able to overcome this challenge.

I thank you Madam President.