

**49<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE IDB**

**12-15 July 2021**

**Bangladesh statement on the Agenda Item 12: *Inclusive and sustainable development in middle-income countries***

**Madam President,**

Bangladesh commend the efforts of UNIDO in operationalizing its Strategic Framework for partnering with the middle-income countries to promote the achievement of inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the MICs. We also appreciate UNIDO's plan to support middle-income economies in creating sustainable jobs, attracting investment and particularly in adopting new technologies for the achievement of ISID.

**Madam President,**

As Bangladesh is set to graduate from the LDC category, it attaches great importance on the sustenance and development of the SMEs, as a strategy to sustain the current growth rate and not to get stuck in the middle-income trap. Our national plan for industrial development is aligned with the SDGs 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 recovery.

We understand that the capacity building and technological advancement to facilitate digital transformation will be key to address the challenges currently faced by MICs and to take the full advantage of the opportunities provided by the 4th Industrial revolution. Increased importance on education, training and innovation; transferring of appropriate technologies and sharing of experience will be crucial to this end. We would encourage UNIDO to work with the economies in transition to gradually develop their competitiveness and to transform their industries from low to high-tech productions.

The industrial supply chain in the MICs has been disrupted in the current pandemic. Bangladesh recognizes that the MICs also need policy supports to diversify their industries and export baskets, and to increase productivity and economic growth.

In this context, Bangladesh would suggest UNIDO to strengthen its partnership with the governments and relevant stakeholders to address the needs and challenges faced by the MICs.

**Thank you, Madam President.**