

Draft Agenda item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2020

Thank you Madam President

As this is my first intervention, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the IDB and other members for their election to the bureau of this session. You can count on my delegation's fullest support for a successful outcome of this session.

Sri Lanka also would like to express its deep appreciation to Mr. LI Yong, the Director General, for his outstanding contributions in the implementation of industrial development programmes and projects amid the challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

My delegation would like to express our congratulation to Mr. Gerhard Muller on his election as the new Director General of UNIDO and I wish him a successful mandate.

Sri Lanka would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Arkebe Oqubay of Ethiopia and Bernardo Calzadilla Sarmiento of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for sharing their vision for the Organization and acknowledge them for their contribution throughout the election process.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Group of 77 and China and I wish to make the following statement on the agenda item 3 in our national capacity.

We highly value the Organization's initiatives, activities and programmes implemented in 2020 and reiterates its commitment in favour of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID)

With this remarks we take note of the Annual Report of the Director General for 2020, which provides an overview of the activities and achievements of UNIDO.

Madam President

UNIDO interventions have a long history of industrial value chain development and improved quality infrastructure of Sri Lankan products. We acknowledge UNIDO's technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives both in the public and private sectors in Sri Lanka. UNIDO has been actively contributing in Sri Lanka to improve the country's trade capacity, agri-food sector, environmental protection, energy and industrial development.

Sri Lanka expresses deep concern over the economic impact of the pandemic on developing countries. We believe that the world can fight against these challenges with international cooperation and solidarity, as no country can defeat this crisis alone. The UNIDO role has become important than ever before in the post covid context. Sri Lanka urges UNIDO to assist Member States in the post-COVID-19 recovery efforts.

Sri Lanka emphasises the necessity of the Organization's continuous efforts to enhance its technical support and knowledge sharing to the developing countries to ensure their Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, which is the core mandate of the organization.

Sri Lanka also requests the Director General to continue to strengthen South-South and North-South partnerships as well as triangular cooperation.

We look forward to an equally meaningful year ahead and to working with UNIDO in a spirit of cooperation

I thank you.