

## **Tribute Ceremony for Mr. Li Yong**

**Vienna, 3 December 2021**

Mr President,

[At the very outset, let me state that Cyprus aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. We would like to provide some additional remarks in our national capacity].

On behalf of the Republic of Cyprus, I would like to thank the outgoing Director General, Li Yong for his able leadership and dedication in promoting UNIDO's pivotal role in the international development system.

Director Li Yong, your tireless efforts have significantly contributed in UNIDO's progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and particularly the promotion of an inclusive and sustainable industrial development, as envisioned in SDG 9. We particularly praise UNIDO's immediate and efficient response in addressing the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Let me also commend UNIDO's support to the ongoing reform of the UN development system, as well as its relentless work to promote Gender equality and women economic empowerment. We also equally note with satisfaction UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) and UNIDO's Project on Strategic Engagement with Emerging Donors.

We would like, once again, to thank you Director General Li Yong and wish you every success to your future endeavours.

Thank you, Mr President.