

**Statement by the Republic of Korea at the
50th Session of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board
Ambassador Sangwook HAM, Permanent Representative,
Korean Permanent Mission in Vienna**

Agenda Item 3: *Annual Report of the Director-General*

Madam/Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 50th session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO. I am confident that your able leadership will facilitate productive deliberations, and assure you of my delegation's full support throughout the session. My congratulations also go to other members of the Bureau on their election. I also would like to commend and thank the Secretariat for its hard work for their organization and support of this meeting.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Gerd Müller for his effort in preparing his first IDB as the Director General. I am confident that, under his stewardship, UNIDO will keep playing a pivotal role in promoting and accelerating sustainable industrial and economic development, despite all the challenges it currently faces.

Madam/Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the 2021 Annual Report and is pleased to note the steady progress made towards our common goal of “inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID)” and SDG No.9, namely, “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation”. We view the technological innovations as an effective means to support the ISID and achieve SDG No.9 in the post-pandemic world, and commend UNIDO’s efforts to adapt itself to the evolving digital environment as its new motto says, “progress by innovation”.

In this regard, the Republic of Korea and UNIDO together have initiated a project on Science, Technology and Innovation framework to support UNIDO creating a policy and research programme. We hope that this project assists UNIDO in better utilizing science, technology and innovation for the achievement of ISID and SDG No.9. The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and UNIDO also launched new projects for industrial policy for digitalization and the fourth industrial revolution in South-East Asia to raise awareness on technological innovation.

Concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, my delegation appreciates the activities implemented by UNIDO in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Considering that economies with strong industrial sector seem to recover faster, we note the work of UNIDO in promoting industrial development and innovation

is essential for the socioeconomic recovery and for building a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient future as stressed in the Annual Report.

Madam/Mr. President,

The COVID-19 pandemic and the armed conflict in Ukraine have disrupted the global value chains, having an impact on the availability of food, energy and other important commodities. The high inflation would increase the operating cost, affecting the financial situation of UNIDO. To overcome this challenge, the operations by UNIDO should be more predictable and effective. The resources should be allocated to high-priority tasks first, then to low-priority ones. We believe that re-organization of UNIDO under leadership of the Director General would enhance overall efficiency of the organization. In this regard, my delegation encourages Member States to pay their assessed contributions on time and in full in order to improve the Organization's financial situation.

Madam/Mr. President,

In closing, the Republic of Korea would like to reiterate its strong support and firm commitments to the common goals and objective shared by UNIDO. We are looking forward to continuing the cooperation with the Organization and

Member States various areas to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Thank you, Madame/Mr. President.