

**BARBADOS-Statement at the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, Industrial Development Board, 21-23 November 2022**

**Agenda Item 12. Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Middle-Income Countries**

**Delivery by Mr. Dwaine Inniss**

Mr. President, given that this is the first time Barbados is taking the floor, we wish to join others and take the opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as President of this 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Industrial Development Board.

We also wish to thank Director General Müller for his report on the Strategic approach within the framework for partnering with Middle-Income Countries.

Mr. President, Barbados recognises that the Organisation has been adapting to global challenges coming out of this period of economic turmoil and disruptions, primarily inflicted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus through the changes in the organisational structure, we recognise that UNIDO is seeking to meet the current needs of Members and in middle income developing countries, this assistance is more relevant now more than ever.

Barbados considers that the activities referred to in this report that seek to operationalise this framework, continues to ensure that the work of the organisation is relevant to current and future issues, and support the green and digital industrial transformation within middle income countries and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Specific to the report, we wish to make reference to such initiatives that go beyond the traditional technical cooperation, and laud the activities that seek to provide analytical and policy inputs and nurture the development of partnerships on fulfilling national policy objectives.

Barbados welcomes the operationalisation of these initiatives as they reflect the vision of UNIDO “progress by innovation.”

Mr. President, with the support of UNIDO, Barbados is a beneficiary through a collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, on a Global Environment Facility project, aimed at strengthening the private sector’s capacity in sustainable technology areas, as well as supporting the investment environment to help Barbados achieve much desired goals on clean energy. The project will support innovation and industrial upgrades in an effort to meet the modernisation and digital transformation of industry.

Mr. Chairman, in analysing the report, Barbados would also see it relevant to highlight that synergies exist within the Bridgetown Covenant, negotiated at UNCTAD 15, which in itself seeks to be a time relative document, outlining what should be considered in respect of development and transformation for a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable world. The document reflects the view that technical cooperation work needs to be adaptive, and references Industrialization as an important source of growth, job creation and value addition in developing countries, the importance of

which cannot be overshadowed among the initiatives and strategies across the family of United Nations Organisations.

It is only fitting that programmes within these organisations and in this case UNIDO, continue be tailored and executed for middle income countries and by extension Small Island Developing States who are confronted with high indebtedness and challenges in accessing global finance on concessionary terms. Any support UNIDO can provide at this juncture, would be appreciated.

This report reflects that UNIDO is on the forefront in order to ensure that the SDGs are not only achievable, but achieved. We wish to applaud the work being done in this respect and fully support the operationalisation of the framework.

Mr. President, in closing, Barbados wishes to assure the Director General and the Organisation of our full and continued support in the journey ahead.

Thank you.

End.