50th Session of Industrial Development Board of UNIDO
India statement on Agenda Item No 9: UNIDO activities related to
digital transformation and innovation
[To be delivered by Mr Gyanveer Singh]

Thank you, Mr President,

We have carefully studied the report by the Director General under this Agenda Item. We congratulate the Director General for bringing digital transformation and innovation in the forefront of UNIDO's activities by creation of a new Division of Digital Transformation and AI Strategies. We in India have witnessed that digital technologies and the enabling infrastructure unleash the human potential for creativity, problem solving and innovation thus transforming citizens' lives.

2.   The digital India story is a story of digital transformation and innovation for progress and prosperity of the people. This is also a story of inclusion, participation, and empowerment of the people. The story is written through development of ICT infrastructure, e-governance solutions, skilled human resources, and cooperation among public, private and civil society stakeholders.

3.   India has developed what we call 'Sushasan Stack' or 'Good Governance Stack'. The stack is fundamentally a low cost, open-source, technology protocols enabling all kinds of applications for use and benefit of 1.3 billion peoples of India. The stack enables development of applications by public as well as private sector companies to deliver health, education, financial transactions, record management, digital commerce, and numerous other services instantly, anywhere, anytime.

Mr President,

4.   India today is home to more than 800 million smartphones, 1.33 billion unique digital citizens (Aadhar), more than 800 million internet users. Above all, it has among the lowest data tariffs in the world. The development of Sushasan Stack, the Jan Dhan Accounts, Unique digital Identity for citizens and mobile telecom revolution has transformed citizen's interaction among themselves and with the government. As a result, India has emerged as the

fastest-growing ecosystem for fintech, edutech, healthtech, agritech innovations.

5.   As one of the examples, I would like to share the Covid Vaccination programme in India. The world's largest Covid vaccination programme is managed through the COWIN Platform, which is developed using this same digital infrastructure and more than 2 billion vaccine doses have been delivered. The capacity to manage population-scale demands and challenges using low cost, open-source digital solutions make these systems, unique, unprecedented and transformative.

Mr President,

6.   India is fully aware of the challenge of bridging the digital divide and has worked with many member states of UNIDO at bilateral and regional level to overcome it. India has supported development of infrastructure, setting up of Centres of Excellence in IT, training of professionals in Indian institutions, implementation of tele-education and tele-medicine programme, e-Vidya Bharti, and e-Aarogyabharti in Africa and many other such programmes under India's International Technical and Economic Cooperation programme.

7.   Another recent innovative initiate of India, Open Network for Digital Commerce aims at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks. ONDC is to be based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.

Mr President,

8.   India believes in 'Data for Development'. We are confident that adoption of digital technologies is essential for bringing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development back on track. India sees these transformative technologies as digital public goods and stands ready to share them with the developing world as open-source platforms under South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation.

9.   We have taken note of UNIDO's ongoing activities and outlook presented in the document under this Agenda item. We are looking forward to the report

of the task force on the strategic framework for digital transformation, innovation, and AI strategies. We would also like to invite the task force to study the Digital India story in formulation of its report.

I thank you, Mr President.