

Country Statement-Pakistan

Tuesday, 22 November 2022.

1500-1600 hours

- **Agenda item 9:** UNIDO activities related to digital transformation and innovation

Mr. President

We take note of the Director General's report on UNIDO activities related to digital transformation and innovation submitted to this Board.

We live in the era of fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) in which Artificial Intelligence is the order of the day. However, as we move up on the ladder of digital transformation, we witness an ever widening gap between the developed and the developing nations. This digital divide is widening, leaving many countries behind. It is important to bridge this gap, like the climate change, we need to take everyone along on the course of digital transformation.

We note that UNIDO is leading the way in addressing the 'opportunities, challenges and risks stemming from the fourth Industrial revolution'. UNIDO's Medium-term Programme Framework (MTPF) 2022-2025, requires digital transformation for achieving inclusive and sustainable industrialization.

Mr. President

UNIDO has defined five enabling elements which drive digital transformation, which are digital transformation at the firm level; skills and capacity - building; innovation ecosystems; partnerships, investment and infra structure; and governance, technologies and innovation. We look forward for UNIDO's Financial and Technical assistance to the developing countries for creation/provision of these enabling factors which would lead to digital transformation, our share vision.

The first and foremost requirement for UNIDO to deliver on this goal is to have the technically skilled human resource available in its secretariat. In this regard we request the Director General for the following:

- a) Provide technically proficient Human Resource at the Secretariat.
- b) Prepare an Action Plan with measurable indicator and targets for assisting member states in digital transformation at the earliest possible, and submit the same for approval of the Member States.