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***UNIDO 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Industrial Development Board  
Statement by the Kingdom of Morocco on Agenda Item 3: "Annual  
Report of the Director General for 2022"  
delivered by H.E Azzeddine FARHANE, Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco in Vienna***

***Vienna, 03-06 July 2023***

**Mr President,**

1. Allow me first of all to extend to you **Mr Magdi Ahmed Mofadal ELNOUR, distinguished Permanent Representative of Sudan**, my warm congratulations, on the occasion for your election for the Chairmanship of the 51st session of the Industrial Development Council. Be assured of the full support and cooperation of my delegation.
2. May I also congratulate Mr. Gerd Muller, Director General of UNIDO, for his tireless efforts and strong commitment to meeting the challenges facing our organization as well as his substantial contribution to supporting developing countries in the process of industrialization.
3. My delegation associates itself with the statements of the G77 and China and the African Group and wishes to make the following comments on its national capacity.

**Mr President,**

4. My delegation takes note of the annual report of the Director-General for 2022, which reviews the reform initiatives, the achievements and improvements made, as well as the challenges that the Organization has faced, particularly in the context of the implementation of the technical cooperation program in 2022, which increased by 17% compared to the previous year.
5. The Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the Director General's proposal to increase the budget devoted to technical cooperation to 25% during the next biennium 2024-2025, as well as diverse UNIDO cooperation programs benefiting middle-income countries, and calls in this regard for strengthening cooperation mechanisms with these countries and to support their respective industrial recovery strategies, in particular through the establishment of effective and efficient mechanisms for the strengthening of South-South, North-South and triangular cooperations.
6. In addition, Morocco reaffirms the great importance it attaches to all the initiatives, activities and programs implemented by the Organization during the period covered by the report and encourages the Director General and the Secretariat to continue their efforts to fully implement the Organization's mandate.

**Mr President,**

7. The Kingdom of Morocco chose to make Industrialization an essential lever and engine for economic development, attaching centrality to the promotion of an inclusive and sustainable industry that generates growth, jobs and income, especially for young people and women, through the promotion of key professional skills.
8. In this respect, Morocco began, in May 2023, a new era in the automotive industry thanks to two different initiatives carried out by young Moroccan entrepreneurs who embarked on the construction of two new car brands made in Morocco.
9. The first vehicle was branded "Neo," a car produced by the Moroccan company "Neo Motors" in the eastern industrial zone of Morocco. This ambitious project, which gave birth to the first Moroccan automobile brand for the general public, relies on national expertise and benefits from the local ecosystem of automotive suppliers developed in the Kingdom.
10. The second project is carried out by NamX Company, led by a Moroccan engineer, aims at building in Morocco a "Hydrogen Utility Vehicle," marking Morocco's entry into the global dynamic of developing new transportation solutions combining efficiency and respect for the environment.
11. These two industrial initiatives, presented during a ceremony chaired by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, are in line with the High Royal Guidelines aimed at guiding the private sector towards productive investment and advanced technology sectors in order to stimulate the emergence of a new generation of companies in the Kingdom and the promotion of renewable energies, as well as the emerging sector of green hydrogen.

**Mr President,**

12. Aware of the importance of South-South cooperation, Morocco values its strong partnership with African counterparts. His Majesty the King has, in this regard, opted for a natural, deliberate and strategic choice in favor of south-south and triangular cooperations, resulting in the implementation of concrete projects for the benefit of several countries in Africa.
13. This Royal vision is consistent with UNIDO's South-South cooperation policy, which consists in fostering partnerships, exchanging expertise, harnessing the opportunities of South-South cooperation for industrial

development and implementing concrete activities and projects for the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda.

14. In this respect, the support of the donor community remains crucial in order to meet the challenges of integrating the economies of developing countries into global value chains, to benefit job creation, poverty reduction and Sustainable Development Goals achievement.
15. In closing, the Kingdom of Morocco would like to reiterate its support to the reform initiatives launched by Mr. Gerd Muller and its full confidence in his able leadership and experience to duly carry out his mission, placing UNIDO as a leading international organization striving for inclusive and sustainable industrialization.

**I thank you for your attention**