

**Statement by Ambassador HAM Sang wook,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
at the 51st Session of the Industrial Development Board**

Vienna, 3-6 July 2023

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

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the 51st session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO as well as those who have been elected as bureau members.

I am confident that your vast experience and competent leadership will ensure a productive deliberation and I assure you of the full support of our delegation during the session.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the President of the 50th session, Ambassador Solano Ortiz of Costa Rica, for his leadership during the previous session, and to the members of his bureau for their excellent work.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation welcomes the 2022 Annual Report of the Director General, and appreciates the outstanding work done by UNIDO under the leadership of Director General Muller throughout the year of 2022, his first full year in office.

We recognize the efforts of the Director General and his staff to reform and reinvigorate UNIDO so as to achieve our common goal of 'Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID)' in a more efficient and effective way, a point well illustrated in the motto, 'Progress by Innovation'. They have indeed delivered astonishing results including a 17% increase in the implementation of technical projects in 2022, especially in the areas of climate and environmental protection, food security and renewable energy.

Mr. Chair,

The world is emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, but the impact of the climate change is slowing the recovery. There were many devastating climate-related disasters in 2022, such as heat waves, drought, floods, and storms around the world. These natural disasters caused huge economic losses and endangered the lives of thousands of people. We are concerning that such unprecedented consequences of the climate change are disproportionately burdening developing countries, resulting slower recovery in low- and middle-income countries.

In this regard, my delegation appreciates UNIDO's activities to help its Member States fulfill their commitments to climate change and environmental agreements and to create climate-neutral economies. We also take note of its active participation in COP 27 and expect UNIDO's strong involvement in COP 28 this year. The Republic of Korea is currently funding several UNIDO projects such as 'Supporting Southeast Asian countries to cope with climate change through policy consultation and capacity building in the area of renewable energy and energy efficiency' and 'leveraging climate finance for increased private sector investment in clean technology and business solutions'. Korea, along with Austria and Norway, also contributed to the establishment of the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) which completed its first operational phase last year.

We also believe that leveraging 4th Industrial Revolution technologies and digitalization is key to achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development and SDG No.9 in the post-pandemic world. In this regard, my delegation recognizes the importance of UNIDO's work in increasing productivity and competitiveness in developing countries by introducing innovations and new technologies and reducing the digital gap between developing and developed countries. The Republic of Korea has contributed to the project on the development of a strategic framework for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to assist UNIDO to foster productive transformation with digitalization and AI. Korea is also funding project to raise awareness on the value of digitalization by initiating a policy dialogue with governments, academia, and the private sector in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Chair,

With regard to the 2024-2025 programme and budget, my delegation thanks all the efforts and contributions by the Director General and the Secretariat to prepare a balanced, detailed and evidence-based proposal. It is important to secure necessary resources for UNIDO to deliver, and we expect that UNIDO do much more with more. However, we would like to emphasize the importance of UNIDO's efforts to increase operational efficiency at a time when all Member States are facing great financial difficulties.

Mr. Chair,

Let me express once again the Republic of Korea's strong support for UNIDO. As one of the Organization's main contributors, Korea will play its due role in achieving the agenda and goals of UNIDO. I thank Director General Muller for his efforts to reconstruct UNIDO and look forward to continue working together with the Organization and Member States to promote and accelerate the Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID).

Thank you, Mr. Chair. /END/