

51st Session of Industrial Development Board of UNIDO
India's Statement on Agenda Item No 3: Annual Report of the
Director General
[Delivered by Ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar]

Thank you Madam Vice President,

2. My delegation warmly welcomes assumption of the Chair of the 51st Session of the Industrial Development Board by H.E. the Ambassador of Sudan. We deeply appreciate the content of his acceptance speech today morning that resonates with all of us. We congratulate you Madam Vice President, and all other Members of the Bureau and appreciate the contribution of the outgoing President and Bureau.

3. We associate ourselves with the statement of the Group of 77 and China and would like to add the following points from our national perspective.

Madam Vice President,

4. We are witnessing times of great uncertainties. The Covid Pandemic may be over but people around the globe continue to struggle for reliable supplies of food, fuel, and other essential items; inflation, debt repayment and economic slowdown remains a deep concern in many parts of the world. These uncertainties can derail us further from our common resolve of pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals. The uncertain times make it imperative that we create resilience in our economies as well as create and de-risk sustainable supply chains for securing our future. For this to happen, we, the international community must come together to lay innovative pathways.

5. In 2022, UNIDO delivered technical cooperation amounting 180 million US\$ in more than 125 countries. We have keenly followed the organizational reforms initiated by Director General Mr Gerd Muller and hope that these will bear fruit.

6. During the 39th Session of the Programme and Budget Committee held two months ago, we had supported increasing UNIDO's budget and equipping it with resources to effectively respond to the emerging requirements, skilling its human resources for emerging areas like Green Hydrogen and Industry 4.0. We would however also like to stress the need for adequate financing and recognition of the value of the office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight, especially when UNIDO is seeking flexibility in budgetary implementation.

7. We note with appreciation the DG's efforts to highlight the organization with its contributions in the discourse of various international fora including at COP-27, HLPF, UNGA, G20 Summits etc. India is also appreciative of UNIDO's participation and inputs in the deliberations of the Development Working Group and Energy Transition Working Group under India's G20 presidency. UNIDO has made valuable contribution in the development of High-Level Principles on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development, which were considered during the G-20 Development Ministerial meeting at Varanasi last month. We look forward to UNIDO's continuous engagement and contributions in the coming months as well.

Madam Vice President,

8. Amidst these rapidly evolving times, the Indian economy has shown strong resilience and continues to be among the fastest growing major economies. India's rapid progress over these past years is led by the innovative use of transformative technology, low-cost solutions, and whole of society participation. Recently in June, India hosted a Global Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Summit, where global leaders converged to embrace the limitless possibilities of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). The G20 Digital Economy Working Group has identified DPI as a key priority area for its profound impact on social, economic, digital, and sustainable development goals. The Summit also witnessed signing of an MOU for transfer of 'India stack' to four countries. India stands ready to partner with UNIDO for development of the DPI in other developing countries and facilitating

leveraging of technology and innovation to bring about socio-economic transformation.

9. We are hopeful that UNIDO, under its new motto 'Progress by Innovation' will find ways to generate required resources and be able to meet the expectations of the developing countries. India stands ready to support the organization in these objectives.

I thank you Madam Vice President.