



**G-77 and China statement during the UNIDO Industrial Development Board,
51st session, 3-6 July 2023, delivered by H.E. Aftab Ahmed Khokher, Ambassador and
Permanent Representative of Pakistan**

Agenda item 10: Climate neutral industry and circular economy

Mr. President,

1. The Group reaffirms the high importance of the potential benefits for countries to transform their economies to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, by engaging with partners to integrate circular economy, bioeconomy and Industry 4.0 for more sustainable industrial activity and manufacturing systems, according to national plans and priorities.
2. The Group recognizes that a circular economy offers a promising and essential approach towards some of the most pressing global challenges and can accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and many of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5, while advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
3. The Group notes with satisfaction the efforts made by Member States to initiate or adopt policies, regulatory and legal frameworks incorporating elements of a circular economy, including national, subnational and regional strategies, roadmaps and actions plans on circular economy, as well as resource efficiency, product, chemical and waste management targets, laws and regulations.
4. The Group expresses its appreciation to UNIDO for holding the first round of global consultations on Circular Economy in May 2021 and the preparations towards holding of the second round of global consultations on Circular Economy in 2023. The Group is hopeful that the second round of global consultations on Circular Economy will afford experts from Member States and other relevant stakeholders opportunity to exchange views on best practices, emerging innovations and the promotion and adoption of circular economy principles and practices by industries of Member States.

Mr. President,

5. The Group of 77 and China further takes note of the Director General's report on UNIDO's strategy in response to climate change and expresses its appreciation to the Secretariat for drafting the strategy, in line with the General Conference resolution GC.19/Res.2 and the IDB Decision IDB.20/Dec5.
6. The Group commends H.E. Mr Mohamed Elmolla, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Egypt, for his efforts in facilitating the negotiations on UNIDO's Strategy in response to Climate Change and hopes that this Strategy brings about the desired outcomes.
7. The Group welcomes the new version of the draft strategy and supports its adoption during this session and requests the Director General to continue working with Member States in developing the action plan of this strategy, to be considered during the 20th session of the General Conference of UNIDO.
8. The Group supports the position that the strategy be guided by the low-greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development principle, and enhances the efficiency, effectiveness and coordination of UNIDO's activities in the support of Member States climate priorities related to Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID).

9. In this regard, the Group stresses the importance of the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund during COP27, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022 and emphasizes the importance of expediting the early operationalization of funding arrangements for loss and damage, which is planned to be announced during COP28, to be held in the United Arab Emirates.

10. Finally, the Group acknowledges the important role UNIDO shall play in coordinating and leveraging climate finance opportunities, including through funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage, to enable a paradigm shift towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development particularly in developing countries.

Thank you, Mr. President.