



**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 11: Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Middle-Income Countries

Mr President,

1. The Group recognizes that Middle-Income Countries (MICs) consist of a wide range of diverse countries, which have contributed to international economic stability, while still facing specific challenges and needs in the context of sustainable development, respectively, in the economic, social and environmental areas.
2. The Group underscores that a robust, green and digital industrial transformation of economies of MICs will contribute to sustainable development and is necessary for achieving internationally agreed development goals, particularly poverty eradication. In that context, the Group requests UNIDO to increase its efforts in supporting middle-income countries in adopting sustainable industrial development policies and practices, in order to mitigate the environmental impact and promote a quantitative leap with regard to value addition to products and companies.
3. The Group welcomes the gradual adjustment of the UNIDO strategic approach for MICs to the emerging priorities of the Organization to ensure consistency and coherence with UNIDO's new vision of progress by innovation. In this regard, the Group takes note of the updated workplan for the implementation of the strategic framework submitted to this session in conference room paper IDB.51/CRP.4.
4. The Group further notes, with appreciation, emerging initiatives by UNIDO, including holding of the inaugural Multilateral Industrial Policy Forum (MIPF) in 2023, establishment of Global Industrial Policy Advice Facility in 2021, and development of the Global Programme for Hydrogen in Industry among other development cooperation initiatives.
5. The Group acknowledges the work carried out so far by UNIDO in support of MICs and requests the Director General to explore further initiatives towards strengthening its engagement with MICs to support their economic growth and competitiveness. UNIDO is further encouraged to assist stakeholders in understanding and assessing the financial needs of MICs and help the latter comprehend how these financial resources can be mobilized, improving their integration into global economy.

Thank you, Mr. President.