

Statement of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Check Against Delivery

Draft National Statement

UNIDO 20th General Conference (27 Nov-01 December, 2023)

Madam. President, (H.E. Ambassador Debora Lepre, Permanent Representative of Italy)

1. Allow me to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election. You have our full support to steer this General Conference session to a successful conclusion.
2. Let me also convey our gratitude to the outgoing President of the 19th General Conference (H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Mezghani, Permanent Representative of Tunisia, and his bureau), for their outstanding work.
3. We are thankful to the Secretariat for making all excellent arrangements for organization of this General Conference.

Madam. President

4. Pakistan aligns itself with the statement of G77 and China and wishes to make the following comments in its national Capacity.
5. At the outset, I would like to reiterate Pakistan's longstanding, steadfast and resolute support for the people of the State of Palestine. We are appalled at the humanitarian crises in the Gaza Strip, inflicted by brutal aggression of Israel. We call for a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire in Gaza and an expeditious and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to people of Gaza including food, water, medicine, fuel and other essential supplies without any conditions, restrictions and limits.
6. We believe that the root cause of recent violence is the non-implementation of two-state solution. We call for an early establishment of a viable, secure, contiguous and sovereign state of Palestine on the basis of the pre-June 1967 borders and with Al-Qudus-Al Sharif as its Capital.

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7. We call-upon UNIDO to prepare a special program in consultation with State of Palestine for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in Palestine and particularly in Gaza strip.

Madam President

8. This year UNIDO is holding the General Conference under the overarching theme of “Fair Globalization: Innovative Solutions for the Industry of Tomorrow”. An apt reminder that globalization needs to be fair and that innovation is key to inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

09. Pakistan supported Director General Muller’s reorganization of Secretariat and field offices. We believe that upon completion of this process, UNIDO will become more efficient and responsive to the needs of the Member States. Moreover, UNIDO has re-doubled its efforts in various fields particularly in the field of climate mitigation and adaptation. We note with satisfaction that UNIDO has prepared its Climate Change Strategy and is now developing an action plan for the same. UNIDO is also implementation partner of renewable hydrogen forum created during COP-27, this partnership will help reduce greenhouse gas emission across the globe.

10. Pakistan views with satisfaction, UNIDO’s activities with Middle Income Countries and with LDCs. Some Developing countries are facing industrial stagnation and if not addressed expeditiously these countries may face de-industrialization. Moreover, world is facing increased poverty and hunger. UNIDO has a dedicated niche to help developing countries in meeting to their food needs by reforming agro- industry through tech based innovative solutions. Therefore, demand for UNIDO’s services is increasing exponentially. I’m confident that DG Muller and his team would be able to cater for the growing needs of Member States through innovative and transformative policies that build resilient infrastructure, facilitate job creation, reduce poverty, stimulate economic growth, promote digitization and create decent jobs.

Madam President.

11. Pakistan acknowledges with deep appreciation, the decades long services extended by UNIDO to Pakistan. These services encompass all UNIDO thematic areas and have contributed significantly to the sustainable industrial

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development in Pakistan. It is heartening to note that UNIDO's Country Program for Pakistan (2018-22), has been successfully completed. We, together, implemented 8 projects with accumulative funding of 77 million US Dollar. The two sides will soon start negotiations for the next country Program.

12. In this regard our preference is to have a comprehensive Partnership for Country Programme (PCP) which is UNIDO's innovative model for accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Member States. Aligned with the national development agenda and focused on sectors with high growth potential, the programme will Support Pakistan in achieving its industrial development goals

Madam. President

13. We fully subscribe to Director General Gerd Müller's three priorities areas for action which are

- a. Supporting sustainable supply chains so that developing country's producers get a fair deal and scarce resources are preserved.
- b. Limiting climate breakdown by using renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions.
- c. Ending hunger by cutting post-harvest losses and developing agribusiness value chains.

14. Pakistan continues to benefit from the cross-cutting themes which include technology and knowledge transfer, digitalization, investment promotion, training and skills, the circular economy, climate change and economic empowerment of women and girls. Moreover all these themes involve activities that contribute to job creation and alleviation of poverty.

15. UNIDO amongst other projects is also the implementation partner of European Union funded, Euro 50 million project in Pakistan which is Poverty Alleviation and Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Development Across Rural Sindh (PAIDAR). The project helps support the Government of Sindh (GoS) in the implementation of its Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS)

Madam President,

16. Pakistan also wishes to be part of UNIDO's Green Hydrogen Program. Green Hydrogen is the fuel of the future, Pakistan has the requisite raw material in abundance and UNIDO's assistance could go a long-way in development of

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green hydrogen in Pakistan. We are hopeful that UNIDO will include Pakistan in the current batch of member countries for implementation of the program.

Madam President,

17. Pakistan has supported Director General's initiative regarding reorganization of Secretariat and also support his reforms in UNIDO's field network. We also support UNIDO's Climate Change Strategy, we believe that climate change is one of the gravest challenges being face by the mankind and industry is not just part of the problem but it actually is the part of solution. Pakistan fully aligns itself with the Agenda 2030 and will continue to Support UNIDO's activities towards that end. Pakistan also support's UNIDO's activities related to digital transformation, innovation and artificial intelligence and other premier initiatives of the Director General.

Madam President,

18. Pakistan supports Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's bid to host 21st Session of the General Conference in Riyadh in 2025. We are hopeful

19. To conclude, I would like to reiterate Pakistan's deep appreciation for UNIDO's role and activities and Director General's reform agenda. We also reaffirm our support to UNIDO's activities in Pakistan.

I thankyou Madam. President.