

**Dear Mr. Chairman,  
General Director,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, on behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to thank the hosts for the excellent organization of the 20th session of the UNIDO General Conference. I also wish to congratulate the President of the 20th session, as well as other members of the bureau on their election.

We consider this session as an important framework towards achieving sustainable industrial development, eradicating poverty and solving socio-economic problems.

We are glad to observe that today UNIDO has become an important organization with a major role in the development of industry around the world.

Given the significant human resources and accumulated experience in providing technical assistance to countries in need, Tajikistan considers strengthening the authority of UNIDO and its leading role in promoting industrial development as a crucial step towards achieving sustainable development goals.

We are convinced that UNIDO's activities in establishing industrial and technological cooperation at the local and regional levels makes it possible to properly respond to the needs of Member States and move more effectively and quickly towards achieving the SDG.

**Ladies and gentlemen!**

Tajikistan under the wise and far-sighted leadership of the Honorable President H.E. Emomali Rahmon has made great success in developing its industrial sector within the framework of "Years of Industrial Development" and the fourth Strategic Goal of Rapid Industrialization of the country.

We have implemented several reforms to create a more conducive environment for investment, and have made significant investments in infrastructure and skills development. As a result, we are observing a steady growth in industrial production and the impact of these interventions made on the selected sectors of the country.

UNIDO along with other International Development Partners has contributed its expertise in supporting our efforts to develop our industrial sector. The organization has provided to local producers' technical assistance, practical training, and technological upgrading in textile and agro-industrial sectors. Nevertheless, there are still uncompleted tasks on exploring international markets for Tajik textile and food products.

We really hope that in the upcoming III Phase of the project in Modernization of Textile sector of Tajikistan with a great support of the Donor of the project (*with support of Russian Government fundings*) we will succeed in our endeavor to find our own niche in international market of apparel and textile.

**Dear colleagues,**

Today, I also would like to highlight the importance of digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence. Countries and organizations cannot ignore these two mega trends. However, challenges are unequally distributed, and it is in the interest of everyone that International Development Community serves as platform for change. I, therefore, hope that together we will support the introduction of the newest available technologies in Tajikistan. We are also looking forward to continue our cooperation with UNIDO in this sector.

Digital transformation and AI should not only be for the few, but should be harnessed to improve livelihoods and lead to prosperity for all, regardless of location. In the manufacturing and industrial sectors, the impact of AI and digital transformation will be particularly profound. The promises of prosperity will remain unfulfilled for significant portion of the world without the necessary skills, access to expertise and technologies.

I call on UNIDO to continue promoting equitable access, providing increasingly essential digital public goods, and address countries' specific needs in their digital transformation and AI endeavors.

Production of organic honey and environmentally friendly construction materials also has a great potential for development and expansion to the export markets. The expected success of these two production chains is based on both the availability of local raw materials and the young labor force in the country. In addition to this, attracting new technologies to the sectors will provide an opportunity to obtain greater productivity, as well as a multiplier effect both for the sector and for the local economy as a whole.

UNIDO has been a valuable partner in our regional cooperation efforts in the area of Industrial Parks and Special Economic Zones. Its support in this direction is helping to create a more integrated and prosperous region. We believe that regional cooperation is essential for the sustainable development of Central Asia.

On a final note, I would like to invite UNIDO to become more active in the development processes in Tajikistan. We are committed to working with UNIDO to further develop our industrial sector and achieve our National Development Goals.

**Thank you for your attention!**