

**Bangladesh Statement at the 20<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the UNIDO**  
**by H. E. Mr. Asad Alam Siam**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh**  
**Vienna, 27 November 2023**

**Madam President,**  
**Director General,**  
**Excellencies,**  
**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**Good morning / afternoon!**

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as the President of the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of the UNIDO, as well as other members of the Bureau for their election. I am confident that under your able leadership, this session will be a successful one. My delegation assures you of our full support.

I also take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the outgoing President and his Bureau team for their commendable job. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent arrangement made.

**Madam President,**

My delegation fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. I will, however, add a few remarks in my national capacity.

At the outset, let me briefly update you about the recent industrial development in Bangladesh. As one of the fastest growing economies of Asia, Bangladesh attained a growth rate of around 7% over the last decade. Last year, according to the World Bank, our GDP grew by 7.1%.

The current contribution of industry in our GDP is around 34%. By 2031, we hope that industry's share to GDP would rise to 40% absorbing the additional workforce. In other words, we aspire to transform our economy from agriculture to manufacturing. In the context of our LDC graduation in 2026, our industrial policy includes three targets - first, socio economic development through inclusive growth by adopting green and sustainable industrialization, second, to increase share of industry to GDP by improving skill, productivity, and employment, and last but not least, capacity building in public and private sectors responding to ever changing technology and 4IR.

We are trying to boost this transformation through multiple mega projects, setting up high-tech IT parks and Special Economic Zones (SEZ), digital transformation programs and export diversification.

There are challenges. Climate change, market access, technology transfer, ethical pricing, capacity building and supply chain disruptions, all these pose huge obstructions

to smooth industrial elevation. In this context, we invite UNIDO to facilitate improving our human skills, capacities, and innovation to overcome the challenges.

***Madam President,***

Bangladesh values UNIDO's significant role to promote inclusive, sustainable and green industrial development to realize relevant SDGs targets in developing and transitioning countries. In Bangladesh, UNIDO is working to improve industrial productivity and competitiveness of the private sector by enhancing export capability and environmental sustainability. We commend UNIDO's project with Pran Agro Processing whereby it intends to double the national dairy production by 2025 making Bangladesh milk sufficient through mass dissemination of the know-how to the farmers.

Agriculture and Climate response are two areas where we need better skill, productivity and innovation.

We suggest that UNIDO adopt projects in tune with our national industrial policy and vision documents to help us to diversify our export basket, get better access and ethical price in the global market.

We urge UNIDO to mobilize climate investments and green technology for the vulnerable countries to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

***Madam President,***

Bangladesh considers UNIDO as a partner in the industrialization of the economies of the global South. We therefore underscore the robust need of strengthening UNIDO's capabilities and funding to deliver its unique mandate. We encourage UNIDO to explore ways to enhance its resources to meet the huge expectations and confidence of the developing countries that it enjoys.

I would like to reaffirm Bangladesh's full commitment to UNIDO to this goal and look forward to continuing an intensive and effective collaboration with it.

***I thank you.***