

**Statement Delivered by H.E. Bharat Kumar Regmi, Permanent
Representative of Nepal to the UN, Vienna at the 20th Session of the UNIDO
General Conference**

27 November-1 December 2023

Madam President,

Nepal associates itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Pakistan on behalf of G77 and China. I would like to add the following points in my national capacity.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 20th session of the UNIDO General Conference and extend warm felicitations to all bureau members.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate Director General Dr. Gerd Müller for leading UNIDO, an organization directly linked with the developmental needs of developing and least-developed countries around the globe. I thank him and his team for the logistics and substantive preparation for the organization of the Twentieth Session of the General Conference. Through his reports under different agenda items, he has put forward in detail the status, progress, planning and strategy, challenges, and way forward on a wide range of activities within the mandate of UNIDO.

We take due notes of all those reports, more importantly reports on industrial development matters, on gender equality and the empowerment of women, on 2030 agenda for sustainable development, on activities related to the environment, energy and circular economy, on climate strategy and its action plan, on agribusiness, trade capacity building and job creation.

Nepal appreciates the Secretariat's initiation of a process of internal, cross-directorate consultations for the development of the five-year action plan for the effective implementation of the UNIDO Climate Change Strategy adopted by the Board on 6 July 2023. We believe the consultation with Member states which the

Secretariat is planning will further enrich the strategy and will help its implementation.

We urge the UNIDO to expand its technical cooperation for activities related to the environment, energy, and circular economy and analytical, research and policy advisory services to other countries who wish to benefit from it.

Nepal appreciates the UNIDO's thought to enrich regional strategy for Asia and the Pacific in the future through consultations with the Asia and the Pacific regional group of Member States.

UNIDO's continuous priority for gender equality and women's empowerment is highly appreciable. Eighty-three percent achievement of the Gender Strategy's target is a good achievement.

Madam President,

Nepal fully agrees with the views expressed by the Director General in his opening remarks that there is a need for a new global contract between rich and poor countries, and that to achieve SDG 9, industrialized countries must fulfill their commitment, particularly by allocating 0.7 percent of GDP to developing countries.

The intertwined challenges of poverty, food security, and sustainable development, demand our collective attention and concerted efforts.

Nepal, like many nations, grapples with the multifaceted impacts of climate change, particularly on our food security and agricultural systems. Climate change-induced events such as floods, droughts, and melting of the Himalayas pose significant threats to the resilience of our agricultural systems, amplifying the urgency for climate-resilient infrastructure.

Promoting Sustainable Industrial Development is vital, and it should never be pursued at the expense of environmental degradation. Instead, our focus should be on investing in robust infrastructure and fostering innovation as catalysts for

sustainable economic growth and development. Let us embrace progress through innovation, ensuring that our endeavors not only advance industrialization but also contribute to the well-being of our planet.

Madam President,

Nepal expresses gratitude for the commendable efforts and substantial contributions made by UNIDO in advancing inclusive and sustainable industrial development across its member states.

Nepal aims to attain industrialization consistently, fostering significant changes in the social and economic well-being of its people.

In pursuit of this goal, we have implemented numerous legal, institutional, and procedural reforms to establish a conducive environment for development.

Enactment of Foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Act (FITTA), Public-Private Partnership and Investment Board Act (PPIBA), Industrial Enterprise Act, Foreign Investment Policy, Mines and Mineral Policy, and Intellectual Property Right Policy are some major policy reforms made in recent years. Similarly, Nepal also offers several tax and export incentives. The Government has decided to organize an Investment Summit in April 2024 to promote Nepal as an investment destination.

Madame President,

As a Landlocked Developing Country (LLDC) and a nation transitioning from a Least Developed Country (LDC), Nepal faces considerable obstacles in achieving rapid industrial development. There still remains a huge gap between the developmental needs and available resources. To overcome these challenges, there is a critical need for robust global partnerships and support specifically tailored for LDCs and LLDCs. Effective collaboration in these partnerships should focus on addressing economic weaknesses and constraints, managing internal and external

vulnerabilities, and facilitating the structural transformation of their economic systems.

I express gratitude for the initiatives taken by UNIDO in organizing the UNIDO Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries last week. The conference underscored the importance of global partnerships and urged collaboration between UNIDO, various intergovernmental organizations, and other development partners/agencies to provide multifaceted support to LDCs.

Thank you!