

India Statement

Agenda Item 2: General debate during the 20th UNIDO General Conference (27 November –01 December 2023)

To be delivered by Ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar,

(Fair Globalisaition and Innovative Solutions for the Industry of Tomorrow)

Madame Vice President,

My delegation congratulates Ambassador Debora Lepre, Permanent Representative of Italy on assuming the Chair of the 20th General Conference of UNIDO. We also congratulate you, Madame Vice President, and the other members of your Bureau and assure you of our full cooperation in the successful conduct of this General Conference.

2. We associate ourselves with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and would like to add the following points from our national perspective.

Madame Vice President,

3. We are gathered here in Vienna for the 20th General Conference of UNIDO at a time when the global challenges and their impacts continue to grow. Pandemics and human conflicts reinforce our ancient Indian belief that we live in an interconnected and interdependent world and that we need to meet these challenges together. Our belief is captured in the expression 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' – the world is one family. And from this springs the theme for India's Presidency of the G20 - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. At such a time, it is imperative that we, the international community, recognize this interdependence and take united action in intensifying the efforts for delivering the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. India, as the G20 Chair this year, pursued the path of dialogue and diplomacy to ensure that People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership remain at the forefront of our international agenda. The first ever 'Voice of Global South Summit', was convened early in our Presidency, to ensure that the concerns of the developing countries as well as the emerging solutions from them are factored in the global discourse. India also worked to ensure that by including the African Union, Africa has a voice in determining the future of humanity and of our planet.

Madame Vice President,

5. Amidst these uncertain times, the Indian economy has shown resilience and continues to be among the fastest growing major economies. This growth over the recent years is led by the innovative use of digital technologies, low-cost solutions, and whole of society participation. These technologies, popularly known as Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), have emerged as a critical enabler of digital transformation and can turbocharge progress to deliver on the SDGs. Award of 'Gender Equality Mobilization' award to UNIDO's UDAY-PRIDE project in India in the 3rd Plenary meeting today is a testimony to our whole of society approach. In August 2023, UNDP published a compendium on DPI as a practical resource for countries to use for building rights-based and inclusive DPI. We continue to work for adoption of DPI approach to deliver population-wide solutions and accelerating achievement of SDGs internationally.

Madame Vice President,

6. In 2023, India reached the milestone of becoming the most populous country in the world. Our requirements for food and energy are also enormous. However, we remain conscious of our international commitments. We are pursuing a path of just energy transition by encouraging development and rapid adoption of renewable energy including solar, wind as well as green hydrogen. Our non-fossil fuel energy usage has grown by more than 25% in the past 7 years and by 2030, we hope to fulfil more than half of our energy

requirements from renewable sources. This year, India has also committed 25 million US \$ support to the Global Solar Facility, formed by ISA to stimulate investments into solar power projects internationally. We urge UNIDO and the member states to make use of the Facility for enhancing adoption of solar energy globally.

Madam Vice President,

7. India believes UNIDO to be among the important global platforms for fostering collaboration and dialogue, mobilizing investments and delivering technical cooperation programmes and thus promoting sustainable industrialization in the countries of Global South. We support and welcome the reforms undertaken by the Director General Gerd Muller in making the organization more nimble and agile and less hierarchical. We also welcome the enhanced delivery of technical cooperation projects in 2022, and are further encouraged by the objective to enhance it by 25 percent in the biennium 2024 – 2025. We urge the UNIDO member States to equip the organization with adequate resources for delivery of these objectives.

8. The 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report highlights the significant contribution of science, and evidence-based actions, to counter uncertainty and address global challenges. In this, we see an important role for UNIDO, especially for advancing digital technologies and innovation, Industry 4.0, and circular economy while ensuring just energy transition, resilient supply chains, stimulating job growth and capacity building in the Global South. In this decade of action for achieving Sustainable Development Goals, UNIDO must explore all avenues of technologies and investment and facilitate technical cooperation mechanisms, be it North-South, South-South or Triangular Cooperation. India, through its various mechanisms, bilateral as well as through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, remains committed to support countries in the Global South in pursuit of their development objectives.

9. In conclusion, India reaffirms its unwavering support for UNIDO's mission and remains committed to collaborating further with UNIDO and fellow member states to share our experiences, expertise, and best practices for fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development globally.

I thank you, Madam Vice President