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DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY (AG.)**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO ON GENERAL DEBATE AT THE 20TH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED
NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION**

MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2023 (VIRTUALLY)

TIME (TBC)

Opening Statement

Good morning.

- Mr. President, I congratulate you on assuming the Chair of the 20th General Conference of UNIDO. I also assure you of Trinidad and Tobago's full cooperation throughout the Conference.

Introduction

- It is a pleasure for me to deliver remarks, on behalf of Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon and by extension, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, at the 20th Session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). I acknowledge UNIDO for extending and invitation for Trinidad and Tobago to address this distinguished audience under the inspiring theme: *"Fair Globalization: Innovative Solutions for the Industry of Tomorrow."*

International Perspective

- The harsh realities of COVID-19, the ongoing armed conflict and geopolitical tensions between countries, as well as the worsening impact of climate change and global

warming have led countries to review their approach to addressing these issues with a view to generating sustainable solutions.

- These are not country-specific or regional issues, but global ones, and therefore, require global solutions. In this regard, organizations such as UNIDO stands as a vanguard in supporting developing countries, through the development of industrial policies and sector-specific plans, to generate feasible solutions to their unique economic and social circumstances.
- UNIDO continues to be a beacon for many countries via the implementation of various industrialization initiatives through increased innovation and technological solutions. Testimonies of these transformative projects include *the development of aquaculture value chains in El Salvador, the Revival of the Textile and Garment industry in Ecuador and the scaling up of energy districts in Colombia.*
- In keeping with the theme of the Conference, in order to strive closer to the perfect state of Fair Globalization we must recognize that we share one world and bear responsibility for global developments. The world is interdependent: everything is interconnected. We live and

exist in one world, one planet with one future. Within this context digitalization and AI are definite game-changers. Digitization is turning the planet into a global village. Knowledge is now available at the push of a button in a fraction of a second.

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) has remarkably impacted the virtual experience. Trinidad and Tobago applauds UNIDO's Director-General Müller for the Organization's recent partnership with Huawei in exploring the capabilities of AI in industry and manufacturing. This is one of the many demonstrations of the theme "Fair Globalisation: Innovative Solutions for the Industry of Tomorrow" that is already generating returns. Initiatives like these must be pervasive throughout developing countries like Trinidad and Tobago to transform these countries through the use of technology and innovation.

Partnerships with UNIDO

- Regionally, UNIDO in partnership with the European Union (EU), has been collaborating with countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Regions to support Quality and Regulatory Infrastructure under the Quality Infrastructure (QI) Programme. With the implementation of this Programme, countries are improving their QI and

strengthening value chains and QI services. UNIDO is currently providing support through the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) for the development of a regional QI. Trinidad and Tobago stands to benefit immensely from this initiative.

- Trinidad and Tobago is a proud member of UNIDO and is pleased to have collaborated with the Organization in the implementation of several key projects. One such area of partnership was the development and rebranding of the MIC Institute of Technology (MIC-IT) in Trinidad and Tobago. This initiative directly benefitted the Manufacturing sector through human resource capacity development, via the training of young persons in relevant technical and vocational competencies.
- Additionally, Trinidad and Tobago benefitted from UNIDO's support in other areas such as environmental sustainability through the management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), policy development in the area of energy efficiency and the development of a robust Quality Infrastructure.

National Perspective and Future Cooperation with UNIDO

- Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The country's National Development Strategy (NDS)-Vision 2030 is anchored on the SDGs.
- Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to deepening its collaboration with UNIDO through the implementation of new ventures such as the establishment of a Learning Factory where apprentices can get hands-on manufacturing experience while creating value-added products, as well as the establishment of a Centre for Renewable Energy and Associated Technologies, as the next step in the advancement of our Renewable Energy Apprenticeship Programme.
- Within the Creative industry, we also see potential gains to be made through the development of a program to boost value chains and entrepreneurship in fashion and in the development of a National Laboratory Policy to strengthen our quality governance.

Conclusion and Commitment

- Looking forward, Trinidad and Tobago expresses a sincere interest in deepening our partnerships with

UNIDO. We believe that by collectively embracing new opportunities and sharing knowledge, we can contribute significantly to the shared vision of a prosperous and sustainable future.

- As we near the eighth year of the global implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to the achievement of the SDGs through furthering its collaboration with UNIDO.

I thank you.