

**Statement by Ambassador YOON Yeonjean,
Alternate Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Korea
at the 20th Session
of the UNIDO General Conference
29 November 2023, Vienna**

Madame President,
Director General of UNIDO,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Members,

I would like to first congratulate Your Excellency on your election as the President of the 20th General Conference of UNIDO. My delegation is confident that your capable leadership will bring successful and fruitful outcomes, and I assure you of our full support during the session.

My delegation also extends its sincere appreciation to Director General Müller, who has been devoted to

realigning UNIDO's mandate and priorities for better integration into the global development agenda. We highly value the efforts of him and his staff to revitalize the organization under the motto "Progress by Innovation" so as to achieve its important mandate in not only a more efficient but also relevant manner with new goals and focus areas.

In this regard, I would like to highlight that UNIDO's unyielding efforts have positively contributed to tangible poverty reduction and the improvement of people's livelihoods by promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development.

Madame President,

We are now facing critical challenges such as climate disaster, a series of global economic shocks, and destructive wars, all the while the world has not fully recovered from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic yet.

To overcome these challenges, we need to focus on increasing the productivity and inclusion of the workforce with innovative approaches and new

technologies.

This is exactly what UNIDO is working for, and the Republic of Korea is committed to contributing to such efforts.

First, Korea supports UNIDO's work to advance environmentally sustainable industries. We are concerned about the impact of the climate change, where devastating climate-related disasters are slowing down industrial development in developing countries. Hence, we value UNIDO's efforts to help its Member States find innovative climate solutions, and welcome UNIDO's climate strategy and action plan.

The Republic of Korea supports climate action in the UNIDO context by funding several projects, such as "Supporting Southeast Asian countries to cope with climate change through policy consultation and capacity building in the area of renewable energy and energy efficiency" and "leveraging climate finance for increased private sector investment in clean technology and business solutions."

Based on the partnership with UNIDO, the Republic of Korea will actively support the international

community's clean energy transition and aims to solve the challenges like the climate gap between countries.

Second, Korea supports UNIDO's endeavors to improve economic competitiveness of developing countries with the implementation of innovative technology.

Science and technology are key to achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development and SDG No.9. By introducing innovative technologies and digital transformation, both developing and developed countries can increase their productivity and competitiveness.

Korea recognizes UNIDO's activities related to digital transformation, innovation and AI, and considers its Operational Strategy for Digital Transformation very important for harnessing the game-changing potential of digital technologies.

To this end, the Republic of Korea has been assisting developing countries to establish digital infrastructure and build digital capacity in order to narrow the digital gap. Korea has partnered with UNIDO on a project for developing a strategic framework for Science,

Technology and Innovation (STI) to help UNIDO foster productive transformation with digitalization and AI. This project will enter its second phase next year.

The Republic of Korea will fulfill its role as a responsible member of the international community in ensuring that the benefits of AI and digital technologies are shared by humanity.

Third, Korea supports the work of UNIDO to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. We would like to emphasize the essential role of women in promoting ISID. Women's economic empowerment contributes not only to economic development but also to the health and education of their families.

Indeed, Korea's experience has shown that empowering women has led to significant job creation and economic growth as women are playing a leading role in the political and economic field in Korea. Therefore, we fully support UNIDO in emphasizing women's empowerment and its policy to mainstream a gender perspective in its development programmes.

Madam Chair,

I would like to close by reiterating that the Republic of Korea remains a wholehearted supporter of UNIDO and its efforts to achieve ISID. To this end we will continue to actively partner with the Organization to make progress on the key challenges we face today.

I thank you Madam Chair. /END/