

**Statement by Ambassador HAM Sang wook,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
at the 52nd Session of the Industrial Development Board
Vienna, 25–27 November 2024**

Agenda Item 3: *Annual Report of the Director General*

Thank you, Madam Chair.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the 52nd session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO as well as other members of the Bureau on their election, and I assure you of my delegation's full support for productive deliberations at this session. I also express my sincere appreciation to Director General Gerd Müller for presenting the Annual Report and briefing the Board.

Madam Chair,

My delegation is pleased to see the steady progress toward the goal of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as featured in the Annual Report 2023 and the Director General's briefing. It is indeed encouraging to see the 44% increase in funds mobilization for technical cooperation as well as the 25% increase in its delivery. While funds mobilization is not the only metric for measuring UNIDO's performance and impact, we believe that it reflects the increasing trust and support for UNIDO by the international community. This remarkable achievement was made possible by UNIDO's unyielding efforts under Director General Müller's leadership.

Ending hunger, limiting climate breakdown, and supporting sustainable supply chains are the priorities the Director General laid out for UNIDO. These are crucial areas for promoting ISID in developing countries and economies in transition, especially under the lingering effects of

COVID-19, which have been amplified by armed conflicts and climate change catastrophes. The Republic of Korea is committed to supporting UNIDO's ongoing efforts to tackle these challenges with resources, technologies, and, in particular, its industrialization experience as the former aid recipient to become a donor country. Allow me to highlight several of our priorities in this regard.

First, creating a world without hunger is the most essential task for safeguarding people's health and improving livelihoods. We highlight UNIDO's efforts to ensure that all people have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food. The Republic of Korea commends UNIDO's successful organization of the World Without Hunger Conference this month. We believe that its outcomes will become a cornerstone in achieving global food security and economic resilience. As a nation that overcame hunger by introducing new agricultural technology and improving its transportation network, we are ready to share our knowledge and experience. In this regard, I am proud to share that last week, Seoul successfully hosted the Global Call 2024, which brought together 228 companies from 55 countries to showcase innovative technologies to addressing food crisis. In the face of worsening hunger issue, this event was timely held under the theme of "Foodtech Innovation and ISID: Nourishing the Future. I commend UNIDO and the Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) Korea for their exceptional efforts in ensuring the success of the Global Call 2024. Korea will continue to support UNIDO's work to achieve food security and sustainable food supply chains until no one has to worry about their next meal.

Second, regarding climate change, we are seriously concerned about continuous climate catastrophes and their disproportional impacts on developing countries. In this respect, we take note of UNIDO's climate actions reduce greenhouse gas emissions in industry and foster climate

adaptation, including UNIDO's strong engagement in COP29. The Organization's activities will ensure sustainable industrial development of developing countries by providing necessary knowledge, skills and expertise to reduce climate gaps. The Korean government is currently funding several UNIDO climate action projects, such as policy consultation and capacity building against climate change in Southeast Asian countries and climate finance for private sector investment in clean technology and business solutions. We will also leverage our partnership with UNIDO to support the international community's clean energy transition not only to reduce dependence on fossil fuels but also to increase the competitiveness of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries.

Finally, UNIDO is promoting fair and sustainable supply chains by helping companies take advantage of smart technologies and artificial intelligence. We also believe that technology transfer and digitalization are key to achieving sustainable supply chains for developing countries. Korea has partnered with UNIDO on projects to assist developing countries to narrow the digital gap, including Industrial Policy for Digitalization in Southeast Asia and Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for the SDGs. In this vein, Korea will continue collaborating with relevant partners to ensure that the benefits of digital technologies are shared by everyone.

Madam Chair,

Let me express once again the Republic of Korea's strong support for UNIDO. As one of the Organization's main donors, Korea will continue to play its due role in achieving UNIDO's agenda and goals by working together with the Organization and Member States to promote and accelerate Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development.

Thank you, Madam Chair. /END/