

National Statement at the 21st General Conference of the UNIDO
by H. E. Mr. Asad Alam Siam, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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**Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning / afternoon!

Mr. President, (H.E. Mr. Bandar bin Ibrahim Al-Khorayef, Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as the President.

I also thank the outgoing President H.E. Ambassador Debora Lepre and the members of her Bureau. I congratulate Dr. Gerd Muller for his reappointment as DG of UNIDO and the Government of Saudi Arabia for successfully hosting this general conference.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh fully associates with the statement of the Group of 77 and China. I will, however, add a few remarks in my national capacity.

At the outset, let me briefly update you about the industrial development of Bangladesh in recent years.

The contribution of our industry in our GDP is around 34.1%. By 2031, we aspire to raise industry's share to 40%, transforming our economy from agriculture to manufacturing. In the context of our post-LDC graduation in 2026, our draft industrial policy includes three targets- **First**, socioeconomic development through inclusive growth by green and sustainable industrialization, **Second**, to increase Industry's GDP share through improving skill, productivity and employment, and **Third**, capacity building of public and private sectors by adopting changing technology and 4IR.

Meeting SDG targets and journey to LDC Graduation also have challenges. Climate change, inadequate access to market and technology, unwillingness to pay fair prices, less focus on capacity, multi-faceted supply chain disruptions - all these obstruct smooth industrial elevation. To respond, we are working with UNIDO and partners to strengthen the competitiveness of our industries and diversify our export base.

Mr. President,

UNIDO is helping us to develop a national strategy for the climate-neutral transition of our textiles and garments sector. This will help us comply with international regulations, enhance competitiveness and secure the livelihoods of millions of workers. New sectors like leather, plastics, agro-food, halal meat and light engineering, which have strong potential to generate jobs, are also being assisted. We commend UNIDO project with Pran Agro-processing to train the grassroot farmers and double the national dairy production. UNIDO's experience in post-harvest management in the Asia-Pacific is helping us to reduce post-harvest loses in Bangladesh.

Global Market access and attaining ethical price are major challenges that we face in our journey to further industrialization. Too high tariff, too many non-tariff barriers and market prerequisites in the export destinations dwarf our ability to climb up the manufacturing ladder. The rise of new protectionism in the guise of pre-conditions hampers our industrial growth and job creation. Through you, **Mr. President**, we urge the destination countries to be more fair and accommodative.

Access to technology is yet another challenge, which obstacles our industrial transformation. Knowledge and technology sharing should be more democratic and decentralized, without which **Mr. President**, the job creation or universal poverty reduction would be a distant dream.

We therefore strongly emphasize on international framework for technology transfer and knowledge-sharing. With continued support from UNIDO, we can make this happen.

Mr. President,

We appreciate UNIDO's cooperation with the Member States to promote environmental sustainability, climate resilience, energy efficiency and waste management. In that regard, we commend UNIDO for initiating a project on **sustainable plastic use and marine litter prevention in Bangladesh**.

We encourage UNIDO to Support the member states and industries to adopt energy efficient manufacturing.

Mr. President,

This is why, we consider UNIDO as a partner of the Global South. We underscore the importance of strengthening UNIDO's capabilities and fund to deliver its unique mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

I would like to reaffirm our full commitment and support to UNIDO to that goal and look forward to continuing an effective cooperation with UNIDO.

I thank you.