

**Congratulatory Statement of the Asia-Pacific Group
on the Occasion of the Appointment of the Director General
At the 17th Session of UNIDO General Conference
to be delivered by His Excellency Mr. Songsak Saicheua,
Permanent Representative of Thailand
and Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Group in Vienna**

Madame President,

1. On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, may I first congratulate Your Excellency on your election as the President of the 17th Session of the UNIDO General Conference as well as all members of the Bureau upon taking their offices of the Conference. The Group has no doubt that, under your guidance, the conference will be concluded successfully. The Group also wishes to register its sincere thanks to the secretariat and all staff members of UNIDO for their hard work in preparation of the meeting.
2. The Asia-Pacific Group would like to align itself with the congratulatory statement of the Group of 77 and China delivered by His Excellency the Permanent Representative of Iran and wishes to deliver the following statement in its regional capacity.

Madame President,

3. The Group take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate Mr. Li Yong on his re-appointment as the Director General of UNIDO for the second term. The strong commitment and leadership of the Director General during his past 4 years in office is unanimously acknowledged by Member States.
4. It should be recalled that in June 2013 when Mr. Li began his role as the Director General of UNIDO, the Organization was in a grave situation and facing serious challenges from the withdrawal of Member States. Consequences of such withdrawal included the reduction of assessed contribution which were crucial to the capability of the Organization to perform its function and provide services to Member States, in particular developing countries.
5. Through his extensive background and experiences, the Director General has been working tirelessly to introduce new models and approaches into UNIDO. His initiative to establish new form of partnership with Member States and private sectors as well as to engage international financial sectors in the work of UNIDO has been successful in revitalizing

the relevancy of this 50-years-old Organization. Launching of the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) is one of the prominent examples of his flagship projects.

6. The Director General also put a lot of efforts to prove that the mandate of UNIDO is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By integrating the concept of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) into the scope of Goal 9 of SDGs on Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, UNIDO was able to firmly establish its position as a forefront development organization in the United Nations system.

Madame President,

7. Although the current situation of UNIDO is far better than the crisis a few years back, there are a lot more work to be done to pursue the mandate of the Organization globally.
8. The Asia-Pacific Group would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for all the hard work the Director General has done and encourage him to do even more to further improve the effectiveness and to enhance the role of UNIDO during his second term in office. The Group stand ready to work with him in future endeavours.

Thank you.