

Nepal

Seventeenth Session of the General Conference of UNIDO

Country Statement Delivered by Ms. Yam Kumari Khatiwada,
Secretary, Ministry of Industry

Vienna, November 27-December 1, 2017

Madame President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namaste and Good morning

I am pleased to attend the 17th session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organizations. First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Madame President, on your assumption of the Chair of the General Conference and would like to extend all support from me and my delegation to you. I also take this opportunity to extend warm felicitations to all bureau members.

My appreciation also goes to the secretariat of UNIDO for the excellent management of the Conference as well as for the timely distribution of conference documents.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Li Yong for his reappointment as the Director General of UNIDO for another term. We have witnessed that under his dynamic leadership UNIDO has made a steady progress and has continued to put positive impact on the industrial development strategy of many developing countries. I hope to further consolidate the cooperative ties between Nepal and UNIDO during the next tenure of Mr. Li Yong.

Nepal fully associates with the statements made by His Excellency the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Group of 77 and

China and His Excellency the Ambassador of Thailand on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group.

Madame President,

The long phase of political transition ended in Nepal after the Constituent Assembly promulgated the Constitution two years back. We successfully conducted elections for the local level earlier this year. As we have gathered here, my country is in the midst of the general elections for federal and provincial legislatures.

The new Constitution have ensured democratic freedom and human rights to foster an inclusive and harmonious society. Now Nepal has firmly moved towards the implementation of its economic agenda that has more focus on achieving high and sustainable economic growth through industrial development. Agro and forest based industries, hydropower, infrastructure, Cement, tourism, mines and minerals, and service sectors as well as the SMEs are some of the priority areas for investment in Nepal as they are of comparative advantage.

Enactments of new Industrial Enterprise Act, Foreign Investment Policy, Special Economic Zone Act, as well as establishment of Investment Board of Nepal and Special Economic Zones Authority to coordinate larger inflow of foreign and domestic investments are some of the policies and institutional reforms made by the government to create conducive environment for investment and doing business in Nepal.

During the *Nepal Investment Summit* in March 2017, we received Letters of Intent worth 13.74 billion US dollars by various prospective investors. That too indicates the improving investment climate in Nepal.

We witnessed some setback due to the devastating earthquake that hit Nepal two years back. We, however, have been revitalizing our efforts through reconstruction. At the same time, lack of proper infrastructure and transport connectivity, financial gaps, lack of capacity building, proper coordination and the use of modern technology are some of the challenges to attain our goals.

The ongoing restructuring of the governance also merits serious attention from the point of view of industrial development strategy.

In addition to the efforts made at the domestic front, achieving objectives of industrial development equally calls for a strengthened global partnership and support. International support is more pertinent for LDCs like Nepal.

In this context, I appreciate UNIDO and its Director General for successfully organizing Seventh UNIDO Ministerial Conference of LDCs last week. The declaration adopted by the Conference also emphasized such global partnership and has called for collaboration between UNIDO and various intergovernmental organizations as well as other development partners/agencies to support LDCs by intensifying technical assistance and capacity-building activities.

Madame President,

Indeed, catching up with the rest of the world is an uphill task for LDCs like Nepal. We believe that UNIDO will stand with us to this cause.

But underdevelopment also means untapped potentials including in the industrial sectors. Given its unique geographic location and features, as well as rich natural and socio-cultural diversity, Nepal, also offers many such prospects. In this context, I call upon UNIDO, its members and all other global partners to join hands together with Nepal at this historic moment.

Thank you

